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**Firth's second
role cut from
'Bridget Jones'**

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Actor Colin Firth



**7th Fleet band
leader hit high
note with Phish**

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**Oklahoma, USC
matched in title game;
Auburn, Cal left out**

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ANDREW G. HARRIS
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A clearer picture

Seven months after his death in Afghanistan, new details
emerge about how friendly fire took Pat Tillman's life

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Left: Pat Tillman marches at Army graduation in October 2002; Center: Tillman's brother-in-law pours a beer in Tillman's honor at a memorial service in May 2004;
Right: Tillman celebrates while playing for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals in 1998. LEFT: KRT; CENTER AND RIGHT: AP; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson: Following two days of searches at the Neverland ranch of Michael Jackson, who is accused of molesting a boy, California authorities collected a DNA sample from the singer, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Investigators used a cotton swab to take the sample from inside Jackson's mouth on Saturday, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported, citing unidentified sources.

The move came as police searched Neverland again on Friday and Saturday, just weeks before the pop star's trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 31.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to child molestation, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to the alleged victim.

World

Kashmir explosion: A remote-controlled roadside bomb blew up an army patrol car in a pre-dawn attack Sunday in disputed Kashmir, killing an Indian army major and 10 other soldiers, police said.

A man who said he spoke on behalf of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant group claimed responsibility in a call to the Central News Service. The group is the largest of the militant organizations fighting Indian security forces since 1989 to carve out a separate homeland or merge Kashmir with India's neighbor Pakistan.

The powerful blast in Wachi village hurled the car skyward and left a 10-foot wide crater in the road, police officer Intiyaz Ahmed said by telephone from the site of the blast, about 40 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

Serbia election option: Serbia's pro-Western president has proposed early general elections in the Balkan republic to try to replace the government that has defied Western demands to hand over war crimes suspects, according to a local newspaper report.

Boris Tadic, the popular liberal politician who became Serbia's president in June, accused the conservative Cabinet of Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica of working against state interests by resisting the pressure to arrest and extradite more than a dozen Serbs indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

In comments published by Belgrade's



Ukraine election: An elderly supporter of

Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko fills in questionnaires in the tent camp on Kiev's main avenue on Sunday. Thousands of protesters clad in orange — many grimy after living for two weeks in the sprawling tent camp — have vowed to remain until news election laws are passed. Demonstrators signed up Sunday for jobs as campaigners, monitors or election commission members as the campaign for a third round of voting in Ukraine's bitterly fought presidential contest officially opened.

daily Politika, Tadic criticized Kostunica's policy of appealing for voluntary surrender of the suspects rather than sending police to arrest them.

Two Bosnian Serbs indicted in connection with the 1992-95 war in Bosnia have surrendered voluntarily since Kostunica became prime minister this year.

Germany suspect release: German authorities have released a Lebanese man questioned in connection with an alleged planned attack on Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi during his visit to Berlin this week, authorities said Sunday.

The man was arrested in Berlin on Saturday on suspicion of supporting a terrorist organization, but prosecutors have decided not to seek an arrest warrant to keep him in custody, said Hartmut Schneider, spokesman

for the federal prosecutor's office. He gave no further details.

A judge in Karlsruhe on Saturday issued a formal arrest warrant against three other men who are accused of belonging to Ansar al-Islam, a group that has mounted attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq since last year's invasion. They were taken into custody on Friday on suspicion of planning an attack on Allawi, hours before he met with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Prosecutors did not release the suspects' names.

Zimbabwe's vice president: Zimbabwe's first woman vice president, former guerrilla fighter Joyce Mujuru, called for unity in the ruling party after a divisive power wrangle over her nomination, state media reported.

Mujuru, 49, was elected Saturday at an annual party convention that was marred by the suspension of seven top party officials accused of plotting to sway the vice-presidential vote in favor of parliamentary speaker Emerson Mnangagwa.

The dispute over Mujuru's election was the most dramatic split in the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front since it took power under President Robert Mugabe in 1980.

N. Korea talks: Japan's foreign minister said Sunday Tokyo remains cautious about imposing economic sanctions on North Korea because the impoverished communist country could use it as an excuse to pull out of bilateral talks.

Japanese officials visited Pyongyang last month for talks about Japanese nationals abducted by the North's spies in the 1970s and 80s. But several rounds of talks have brought little progress, prompting calls in Japan for the government to take a harder line against the country — including exploring ways to promote a change of the authoritarian regime.

Abu Sayyaf roundup: Government troops raided a suspected safehouse of Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist guerrillas in a southern city, killing a rebel commander and capturing four suspected rebels, military officials said Sunday.

The slain rebel, Mahar Gahan, also known by his guerrilla name Abu Muslim, has been linked to several bombings in the south. Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, who heads the military's Southern Command, said without elaborating.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Bandmaster has jammed with Phish

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Not too many sailors have a gold record stashed away and have been mentioned in the pages of Rolling Stone magazine.

Lt. Jg. Carl Gerhard, the leader of the 7th Fleet Band, isn't an ordinary sailor. In nearly 20 years as a Navy musician, first enlisted and now as a limited duty officer, he has performed for dignitaries and regular folks alike all over the world.

He has sat beside Imelda Marcos at dinner and stood before thousands during performances in October in the Philippines. Since arriving at Yokosuka in July to serve as bandmaster, he's conducted a performance with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and performed before throngs of Japanese music lovers.

But it was a series of live performances with a childhood friend, including several that ended up on live concert albums, that brought the trumpet-er unexpected recognition.

In the late 1980s, while with the Navy Band in Newport, R.I., Gerhard jammed with an old friend, Page McConnell, and his up-and-coming band called Phish.

In 1991, Gerhard traveled to Vermont and performed with the group under an alias. The performance went so well, guitarist Trey Anastasio invited Gerhard to come back for a tour, which was scheduled around Gerhard's summer leave.

With two other horn players, they created the Giant Country Horns — named for a Vermont Dairy. The horn section joined Phish on 14 shows that summer.

As he moved around to different duty stations, Gerhard continued to join Phish for gigs, including in San Francisco with the Dave Matthews Band and another at the Roman Colosseum while he was serving in Naples, Italy. Some of his performances were used on the 1995 "A Live One" album and others on the 1998 "Hampton Comes Alive."



TERRY SPAIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Lt. Jg. Carl Gerhard conducts the 7th Fleet Band during a recent performance. Gerhard, who has jammed on and off for years with the alternative group Phish, now conducts the fleet band in about 300 performances a year.

During his times with the band, Navy life never was far off. He led band members on physical training exercises, and said putting the uniform back on at a band tour's end never was difficult.

The 41-year-old began performing in elementary school. He preferred clarinet but took up the instrument all his friends were playing — the trumpet.

In 1985, after years of performing with big-band and jazz acts as a teen, he joined the Navy and quickly was accepted into the musician program.

It was a stroke of luck at the time: Gerhard didn't know he should have auditioned and been selected before signing on the dotted line. While in boot camp, with orders to Saudi Arabia as an undesignated sailor, he was able to snag and audition and a place in the Navy's esteemed music program, possibly saving himself from years of scraping paint.

"It's the only job in the Navy where you

have to be proficient at your job before you come in," he said.

A few years later, Gerhard made his fateful visit to Vermont.

"It was neat to be a part of something, part of the band's evolution," he said. "You can't put a price on it."

As a bandleader, he is now one of 25 officers in the Navy's band community, all former enlisted. He jokes that he was the only enlistee with gray hair.

"I was pretty fortunate to be selected," he said.

Reflecting on his time in the Navy, Gerhard believes he has the best job the service has to offer, performing a vital link to the community, rubbing elbows with stars and dignitaries and motivating the forces.

"Whatever I did was Phish was just icing on the cake."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstrips.osd.mil

CFC-O donation

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Masonic Foundation of Japan presented a \$20,000 check to Lt. Gen. Thomas Waskow on Wednesday for the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas, according to a U.S. Forces Japan news release.

Yasutada Kitamura and Fred Collins, representing the Tokyo Masonic Foundation, presented the check during a ceremony at USFJ headquarters.

The CFC-O is part of the larger Combined Federal Campaign program, which is designed to promote philanthropy at federal workplaces each year. The CFC raised more than \$249 million for charities in 2003.

Pottery class offered

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Skills Development Center is conducting an Introduction to Pottery for Youth class from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday with a second session planned for Dec. 14.

The program is open to children 7 and older. The \$20 cost includes materials.

Call DSN 225-7837 for more information.

School food drive

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota East Elementary School's fifth-grade class is conducting a food drive for Ajino-Ea "Home of Affection" Organizing.

This year's campaign, dubbed "The Spirit of Giving," began Nov. 8 and is to end December.

Donations may be dropped off in labeled boxes outside the school's fifth-grade classrooms in Building 4319.

Yokota East Elementary has sponsored the food drive since 1964.

From staff reports



BRIAN NARANJO/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Ten-year-old Andrew Vargas, a fifth-grader at Shirley Lanhom Elementary school at Atsugi Naval Air Facility in Japan, keeps a watchful eye on traffic as students head to school Thursday.

Children's safety patrol keeps Atsugi in line

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

ATSUGI NAVAL AIR FACILITY, Japan — Every day, 50 youngsters help to guard the safety of their peers, keep order on the playground and hoist and lower the flag in a traditional ceremony.

The members of the Shirley Lanhom Elementary safety patrol don't just direct pupils and parents. They bring a level of professionalism to the job.

They stand at attention, march to and from the center crosswalks in a methodical progression and hold their stop signs high. It's just like the real thing.

"They're all military trained. There's guys that come out of boot camp that can't even do this," said Petty Officer 3rd Class David Palmer, a master-at-arms and the school Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer who coordinates the safety patrol. "I showed them how we do our post standing. They took the show from that point."

The good military bearing creates a level of professionalism that helps the kids take their role seriously and keeps them motivated, Palmer said.

The patrol is voluntary; the students' reward is getting treats on Fridays, provided by Palmer, and two parties a year. They rotate through several jobs — road patrols at crosswalks to stop traffic for walkers, roving patrols on the "red top" playground, and raising and lowering the flag.

Pupils on patrol

The pint-sized patrols are divided into two squads and led by three senior members (6th-graders):

■ **Red squad:** Taylor Hale, captain; Alamer Macapagal and Maria Lababit, lieutenants

■ **White squad:** Jeremy Tran, captain; Kamisha Sanders and Christian Tahemich, lieutenants

The youngsters carry citation books, just like real masters-at-arms. They record the name or license-plate number of anyone who breaks a rule and turn that information over to Palmer.

The goal, however, isn't to teach them to be bullies. It's to ensure safety.

"It's not for the kids to be little police officers," said base spokesman Brian Naranjo.

"It's about the kids taking responsibility for the safety of their classmates. They're not just out holding signs up."

The patrols take their responsibility seriously. They have had no problem ordering adults — politely, of course — to walk in the correct places.

The squads of fifth-graders are led by sixth-grade officers — a captain and two deputy lieutenants — who enforce discipline and keep order in the ranks.

"I try to teach them to use a chain of command," Palmer said. "I didn't think they'd take it so serious. They actually respect their chain of command."

The responsibility of leading the patrols is tremendous.

"Sometimes they don't listen to us," said Alamer Macapagal, 11, Red Squad lieutenant, about her squad members. "Overall they do a good job."

She notes that this year, Palmer's introduction of military standards such as marching and pivoting gave the squads something to be proud of.

"He wants the safety patrol to look like they know what they're doing," said Red Squad captain Taylor Hale, 11.

Hale said he enjoys the job, "having control over something and being a leader," he said. But it's definitely hard work.

For next year's leaders he offers some advice: "Get ready for some tough. This is very hard. But it's really fun."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstrips.osd.mil

“There’s guys that come out of boot camp that can’t even do this.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Palmer
Safety patrol coordinator

Friendly fire: The death of Pat Tillman

Communication breakdown, a broken Humvee and a questionable platoon split set the stage for the Army Ranger and former NFL player's death in Afghanistan

By STEVE COLL
The Washington Post

I ended on a stony ridge in fading light. Spc. Pat Tillman lay dying behind a boulder. A young fellow U.S. Army Ranger stretched prone beside him, praying quietly as tracer bullets poured in.

"Cease fire! Friendlies!" Tillman cried out.

Smoke drifted from a signal grenade Tillman had detonated minutes before in a desperate bid to show his platoon members they were shooting the wrong men. For a few moments, the firing had stopped.

Tillman stood up, chattering in relief. Then the machine gun bursts erupted again.

"I could hear the pain in his voice," recalled the young Ranger near him. Tillman kept calling out that he was a friendly, and he shouted, "I am Pat [expletive] Tillman, damn it!" His comrade recalled: "He said this over and over again until he stopped."

Myths shaped Pat Tillman's reputation, and mystery shrouded his death. A long-haired, fierce-hitting defensive back with the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League, he turned away a \$3.6 million contract after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to volunteer for the war on terrorism, ultimately giving his life in combat in Taliban-infested southeastern Afghanistan.

Millions of stunned Americans mourned his death last April 22 and embraced his sacrifice as a rare example of patriotism and national service. But the full story of how Tillman ended up on that Afghan ridge and why he died at the hands of his own comrades has never been told.

Dozens of witnesses statements, e-mails, investigation findings, logs, books, maps and photographs obtained by The Washington Post show that Tillman died unnecessarily after botched communications, a mistaken decision to split his platoon over the objections of its leader and negligent shooting by pumped-up young Rangers — some in their first firefight — who failed to identify their targets as they blasted their way out of a frightening ambush.

The records show Tillman fought bravely and honorably until his last breath. They also show that his superior overestimated his actions and invented details as they buried his legend in public, at the same time suppressing details that might tarnish Tillman's commander.

Army commanders hurriedly awarded Tillman a posthumous Silver Star for valor and released a nine-paragraph account of his heroism that made no mention of friendly fire. A month later, the head of the Army's Special Operations Command, Lt. Gen. Philip Kensinger Jr., called a news conference to disclose in a brief statement that Tillman "probably" died by "friendly fire," Kensinger refused to answer questions.



Spc. Pat Tillman marches as he performs the honor of being the guidon bearer during graduation ceremonies Oct. 25, 2002, on Sand Hill at Fort Benning, Ga. Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals star who walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to serve with the Army Rangers, was killed in Afghanistan by friendly fire.

Friends and family describe Tillman as an American original, a maverick who burned with intensity. He was wild, exuberant, loyal, compassionate and driven, they say. He bucked convention, devalued books and debated conspiracy theories. He demanded straight talk about uncomfortable truths.

After his death, the Army that Tillman served did not do the same.

Pat Tillman's decision to trade the celebrity and luxury of pro football for a grunt's life at the bottom of the Ranger chain of command shocked many people, but not those who felt they knew him best.

In high school and college, a mane of flaxen hair poured from beneath his football helmet. His muscles rippled in a "puffer" paper from the neck down. "Dude" was his favorite pronoun; for fun he had handstands on the roof of the family house. He pedaled shirtless on a bicycle to his first pro training camp.

He was very close to his younger brother Kevin, then playing minor league baseball for the Cleveland Indians organization. They finished each other's sentences, friends recalled. They enlisted in the U.S. Army Rangers together in spring 2002. Less than a year later, they shipped out to Iraq.

In Pat Tillman's first firefight

during the initial months of the Iraq war, he watched his lead gunner die within minutes, stepped into his place and battled steadfastly, said Steve White, a U.S. Navy SEAL on the same mission. "He was thirsty to be the best," White said.

Yet Tillman accepted his ordinary status in the military and rarely talked about himself. One night he confided to White that he had just turned down an NFL team's attempt to sign him to a huge contract and free him from his Army service early.

The Tillman brothers served together in the "Black Sheep," otherwise known as 2nd Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. They were elite — special operators transferred from Iraq in the spring to conduct sweep and search missions against the Taliban and al-Qaida remnants in eastern Afghanistan. The Rangers worked with CIA paramilitaries, Afghan allies and other special forces on grid-by-grid patrols designed to flush out and entrap enemy guerrillas.

On April 13, 2004, the Tillman brothers rolled out with their fellow Black Sheep from a clandestine base near the Pakistan border to begin anti-Taliban patrols with two other Ranger platoons. A week later, the other platoons returned to base. So did the two senior commanding officers of A Company, records show. They left

behind the 2nd Platoon to carry on operations near Khost, in Pakтия province.

Left in command of the 2nd Platoon was then-Lt. David Uthlaut, a recent graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he had been named the prestigious first captain of his class. Now serving as a captain in Iraq, Uthlaut declined to be interviewed for these articles, but his statements and field communications are among the documents obtained by The Post.

Uthlaut's mission, as Army investigators later put it, was to kill or capture any "anti-coalition members" that he and his men could find.

The trouble began with a Humvee's broken fuel pump.

A helicopter flew into Pakтия with a spare on the night of April 21. But the next morning, the Black Sheep's mechanic had no luck with his repair.

Uthlaut ordered his platoon to pull out. He commanded 34 men in nine vehicles, including the busted Humvee. They towed the broken vehicle with straps because they lacked a proper tow bar. After several hours on rough, dirt-rope roads, the Humvee's front end buckled. It could move no farther. Uthlaut pulled his men into a tiny village called Margahar to assess options.

Uthlaut messaged his regiment's Tactical Operations Center far away at Bagram, near Kabul. He asked for a helicopter to hoist the Humvee back to base. No dice, came the reply: There would be no transport chopper available for at least two or three days.

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While Uthlaut tried to develop other ideas, his commanders at the base squabbled about the delay. According to investigative complaints filed in a Company's commander, Uthlaut's immediate superior.

"This vehicle problem better not delay us any more," the senior officer said, as he later recalled in a sworn statement. The 2nd Platoon was already 24 hours behind schedule, he said. It was supposed to be conducting clearing operations in a southeastern Afghan village called Manah.

By 4 p.m. Uthlaut had a solution, he believed. He could hire a local "jenga truck" driver to tow the Humvee out to a nearby road where the Army could move down and pick it up. In this scenario, Uthlaut told his commanders, he had a choice: He could keep his platoon together until the Humvee had been disposed of, or he could divide his platoon in half, with one "serial" handling the vehicle while the other serial moved immediately to the objective.

The decision was made, under pressure from his superior to get moving, ordered Uthlaut to split his platoon.

He pulled his men together hastily and briefed them. Serial One, led by Uthlaut and including Pat Tillman, would move immediately to Manah.

Serial Two would follow, but would soon branch off toward a highway to drop off the vehicle.

Tomorrow: A canyon ambush sparks a deadly firefight
Washington Post staff writer Josh White contributed to this report.

First in a series

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

17 Iraqi workers die in ambush

Unrest kills six GIs since Friday

By NICK WADHAMAS
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying unarmed Iraqis to work at a U.S. weapons dump near Tikrit on Sunday, killing 17 and bringing the toll from three days of intensified insurgent attacks to at least 70 Iraqi dead and dozens wounded.

The attacks, focused in Baghdad and several cities to the north, appeared to be aimed at scaring off those who cooperate with the American military — whether police, national guardsmen, Kurdish militias, or ordinary people just looking for a paycheck.

The violence came just weeks after the United States launched major offensives aimed at suppressing guerrillas ahead of crucial elections set for Jan. 30. Later Sunday, several small Sunni Muslim groups joined more influential Sunni clerics in demanding that the vote be postponed by six months.

Sunday's bloodshed began when gunmen opened fire at the bus as it dropped off Iraqis employed by coalition forces at a weapons dump in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, said Capt. Bill Coppemoll, spokesman for the Tikrit-based U.S. 1st Infantry Division. Coppemoll said 17 people died and 13 wounded in the attack.

Survivors said about seven guerrillas were involved, emptying their clips into the bus before fleeing. The bodies of the victims were brought to a morgue too small to fit all of them; some were left spilt on a street outside.

About an hour later, a suicide car bomber drove into an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint in Beiji, about 75 miles to the north, detonating his explosives-packed vehicle, Coppemoll said. Then gunmen opened fire on the posi-



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, cord off an area around the crater left by large car bomb that exploded in Baghdad on Saturday.

tion. Three guardsmen, including a company commander, were killed and 18 wounded, Coppemoll said.

Also Sunday, guerrillas ambushed a joint Iraqi-coalition patrol in Latifiyah, south of Baghdad, and attacked Iraqi National Guardsmen patrolling near Samarra, north of Baghdad. Two Iraqis were killed and 10 wounded.

The attacks seem to be an orchestrated campaign by Iraq's Sunni-led insurgency to strike Iraqis who cooperate in any fashion with the Americans. On Friday, a police station was hit and 16 killed. On Saturday, suicide car bombs hit another police station, killing six, and a bus full of Kurdish militiamen, killing seven.

The raids appear to have another goal as well: resupplying the in-

surgents' arsenal. Rebels behind Friday's attack looted the police armory, and on Sunday, police said armed men stormed a station about 30 miles south of Fallujah and stole two police cars and a large cache of weapons.

That has not stopped the coalition from arming Iraqi forces. On Sunday, the U.S.-led Multinational Air Security Transition Command announced Iraqi security forces had received deliveries in November of 5,400 AK-47s, almost 2,000 9mm Glock pistols, 78 rocket-propelled grenade launchers and millions of rounds of ammunition — as well as other materiel including body armor, night vision goggles, armored personnel carriers and four Russian-designed battle tanks.

Six U.S. soldiers have been killed since Friday as well. That included two soldiers slain Saturday during a patrol in Mosul's Palestine neighborhood, when they came under fire from insurgents shooting from two mosques and other buildings in the area, according to spokeswoman Capt. Angela Bowman. The U.S. military and Iraqi forces later raided a mosque and detained three suspects.

The raid drew several disguised men out onto the street in protest.

"I swear by God, I swear by God, I swear by God, our retaliation will be severe, God witness what I say," a masked man shouted before speeding away in a car.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,269 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 988 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not update its numbers Saturday.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand, Hungary and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,131 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 879 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed by a roadside bomb Saturday north of Baghdad.

■ One U.S. soldier was killed by an explosive Saturday in eastern Baghdad.

■ Two U.S. soldiers died Friday in a suicide car bombing of their post near the Jordanian border.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Col. Bryan S. Wilson, 22, Otterbein, Ind., died Wednesday in a vehicle incident in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Karpinski must appear at abuse trial

FORT HOOD, Texas — A military judge has ordered the former commander of U.S. prisons in Iraq to testify at the trial of a soldier who says his superiors condoned the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib.

The judge, Col. James Pohl, said Saturday that Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski's testimony at the trial of Sgt. Jayla Davis would be limited to conditions at Abu Ghraib and the interaction there between guards and military interrogators. Karpinski is the highest-level official required to testify.

U.N. envoy doubts Iraq January vote

The U.N. special envoy to Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi, said elections scheduled for the end of January may have to be postponed.

A delay in the elections would anger many Shiite Muslims, who are expected to win the largest portion of the seats in the transitional national assembly to be chosen in the vote. And it would derail American plans to begin reducing the number of troops in Iraq next year.

Fallujah residents want to go home

HABANIYAH, Iraq — More than a thousand Fallujah residents displaced by the U.S.-led attack on their city rallied Sunday to demand they be allowed to return home, while a militant group warned that insurgents are preparing more attacks.

The fierce military campaign in Fallujah, launched last month to wipe out insurgents allied with Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, forced most of the city's 300,000 people to leave their homes for Baghdad or nearby cities.

Ex-rivals create Taliban amnesty list

KABUL, Afghanistan — Pakistan will help Afghanistan identify Taliban members eligible for an amnesty that could allow the United States to reduce its troop levels here as soon as next summer, a senior U.S. commander said Sunday.

LT Gen. David Barno also told The Associated Press that the uneasy Central Asian neighbors had agreed to move together against dozens of Taliban leaders viewed as "criminal," many of whom are rumored to be living in Pakistan.

General: SEALs photos acts of few

CAIRO, Egypt — A former military spokesman in Iraq said Saturday new pictures showing apparent abuse of Iraqi prisoners were the acts of an isolated few but will be used by some to try to tarnish the entire U.S. military.

Gen. Mark Kimmitt, now based in Qatar, spoke on the pan-Arab television network a day after the U.S. military launched a criminal investigation into photographs that appear to show Navy SEALs in Iraq sitting on hooded and handcuffed detainees.

From wire reports



Yokota International Christian Assembly

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IN THE WORLD

Philippines seeks foreign aid after storms

Death toll lowered to 566, but infrastructure destroyed

BY OLIVER TEVES
The Associated Press

REAL, Philippines — Philippine officials sought international help Sunday to rebuild villages ravaged by back-to-back storms that left 566 people dead and 546 others missing in mostly poor northern agricultural regions.

The storm and typhoon that struck late Monday and Thursday respectively set off flash floods and landslides, destroying hundreds of houses, farms, roads and bridges. Damaged infrastructure hampered rescue and relief efforts in remote villages, officials said.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman appealed for international aid in "rebuilding water systems, toilets, livelihood in agriculture for people whose farmlands were buried in mud."

Official figures released earlier said 640 people had died in the storms, but the latest tally lowered the figure to 566.

Australia, the European Union,

Japan, New Zealand, the United States as well as U.N. agencies and the International Red Cross quickly responded with financial aid, transport and relief goods.

U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, who flew by helicopter Sunday to villages in the hard-hit eastern province of Quezon, said roads and bridges needed to be repaired immediately to allow relief goods to flow to isolated areas.

Washington offered to dispatch troops to undertake humanitarian help, including at least one helicopter for transport and a team of U.S. military damage assessment experts. It also donated \$200,000, 500 body bags and plastic shelter materials to the Philippine Red Cross, he said.

Marie North, a spokeswoman for the International Federation of Red Cross, said the group is appealing for \$1.7 million to buy emergency relief supplies.

Hundreds of villagers tried to leave hard-hit areas, including Real in Quezon. More than 400

people jammed a ferry capable of carrying only 108 passengers. The coast guard allowed the ferry to sail to a nearby town after passengers agreed to get off.

Most of the destruction was wrought by a tropical storm that blew through northeastern provinces late Monday, killing at least 529 people and leaving 508 others missing. Typhoon Namdod struck the same region late Thursday, leaving 37 dead and 38 missing, according to revised figures by the Office of Civil Defense.

Deforestation has stripped hill-sides of vegetation that could have held mud and other debris in place. Many believe years of illegal logging set off the landslides.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Saturday suspended all logging and said illegal loggers would be prosecuted in the same manner as terrorists, kidnappers, drug traffickers and other hardened criminals. She also urged Congress to stiffen penalties for illegal loggers and their cohorts.



Local residents carry their relief goods outside a distribution center Sunday in Infanta, Philippines. At least 566 people died and about 546 people are missing following a series of storms that wrecked Infanta and neighboring towns in the Philippines' eastern region.

Egypt releases Israeli Arab in prisoner swap

BY REVITAL LEVY-STEIN
The Associated Press

EILAT, Israel — Egypt on Sunday freed an Israeli Arab businessman convicted of spying in exchange for Israel's release of six Egyptian students, a deal that signaled a warming of relations between the two countries.

As part of the deal, Israel may also release Palestinian prisoners in the future, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a statement.

The businessman, Azzam Azzam, was convicted of espionage by an Egyptian court in 1997 and sentenced to 15 years in prison. At the time, he ran a textile factory in Egypt. The case against Azzam was based, in part, on allegations that he had invisible ink in his possession. Israel has denied Azzam was an agent.

Azzam's imprisonment has been a key point of friction between Israel and Egypt, whose ties remain cool despite their 1979 peace treaty.

After Azzam's release, Sharon called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to thank him. The two leaders pledged to work closely together, according to a statement by Sharon's office. "The prime minister... said he believes the two (leaders) can achieve great things for the coming generations" and that Mubarak agreed, the statement said.

Talking briefly to reporters Sunday afternoon, Sharon said that in the phone call, he "thanked Mubarak for his decision, and we spoke about strengthening ties and about widening cooperation between Egypt and Israel."

As part of the swap, six Egyptian students were freed by Israel.

The students sneaked into Israel in August and were arrested on suspicion they planned to kidnap Israeli soldiers and commandeer a tank. Egyptian officials said the students could face charges at home of illegally crossing the border.

The swap took place at the Taba crossing between Israel and Egypt.

After Azzam crossed into Israel in a van, he was taken to the nearby Red Sea resort of Eilat. After sev-



Azzam Azzam, an Israeli-Arab jailed in Egypt since 1996 after being convicted for spying for Israel, boards an Israeli military aircraft in Eilat on Sunday. Israel and Egypt reached a deal on Sunday to free six Egyptian students in a prisoner swap for Azzam.

eral hours, he boarded a small military aircraft in Eilat, waving and smiling before takeoff.

Asked whether he expected he would win early release, he said: "I always believed because I am an Israeli citizen. I believed, because the state of Israel takes care of its citizens."

Azzam, a member of the Druse religious sect, an offshoot of Islam, briefly spoke to Sharon and to his wife, Amal, by phone from Eilat.

Sharon told Azzam he had worked hard for his release and that "the entire country is united in happiness over your return home."

The swap came several days after Egypt's foreign minister and intelligence chief met with Sharon in Jerusalem. Earlier this week, Mubarak praised Sharon, saying Palestinians should be able to strike a peace deal with the Israeli leader.

The comments marked a significant warming of ties after an extended frosty period during more than four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

Millions of Muslims join in peace prayer

The Associated Press

TONGI, Bangladesh — Millions of Muslims prayed together for peace and harmony on a riverbank near the Bangladesh capital on Sunday, concluding an annual assembly that is considered one of the world's largest Islamic gatherings.

Gathered under a huge bamboo-and-canvas marquee on the banks of the Turag River, the pilgrims listened to recitations from the Islamic holy book, the Quran, and took part in the noon-time prayer.

Organizers said as many as 4 million people were expected to attend the event, which wraps up a three-day congregation.

Bangladesh President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also joined in the prayer.

Known as Biswa Jitima, or world congregation of Muslims, the annual gathering is dedicated to teaching the tenets of Islam, and shuns politics. It started in 1966 as a small gathering of Islamic scholars and preachers meeting at a Dhaka mosque.

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john316@iea.att.ne.jp

UNICEF: At least 170 million kids underfed



Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's executive director, spoke at a conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Sunday, and praised volunteers, citing their critical role in helping governments and aid agencies.

Director cites critical role of volunteers in childrens' lives

BY SADAQAT JAN
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — More than 170 million children worldwide are malnourished and 120 million never attend school, the executive director of the U.N. children's agency said Sunday, citing the critical role volunteers play in improving the lives of youths everywhere.

UNICEF chief Carol Bellamy also underlined the challenges of improving primary health care for children around the world, as she opened an international conference in the Pakistani capital to encourage volunteerism at aid agencies and in government.

"Children under the age of 5 are still dying at a rate of nearly 10 million a

year from preventable causes like diarrhea, measles and acute respiratory infections," she told delegates at the conference.

More than 170 million children globally remain malnourished, and over 120 million young people, many of them girls, "never see the inside of a school," said Bellamy, who arrived in the Pakistani capital Sunday for a three-day visit to discuss cooperation in health and education projects.

Literacy rates are low in Pakistan. UNICEF estimates that three out of every 10 children aged 5 to 9 year never go to school, and dropout rates are high. Of those children who enroll, only half reach fifth grade, according to UNICEF.

Also addressing the conference,

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz invited volunteers to help Pakistan's government to fight "social challenges."

"We recognize that the government alone cannot fight against illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty and many other challenges," he said.

"The spirit of volunteerism is at the heart of all our efforts to build a better future and a better future for every child," Bellamy said. Bellamy is scheduled to hold talks with Aziz on Monday, then she plans to travel to the eastern city of Lahore to meet with senior government officials on UNICEF-assisted projects in Punjab province.

UNICEF is assisting with projects in child education, health care and the protection of women's and children's rights in Pakistan, an impoverished country of about 150 million people.

Powerful winds slam Japan, hurting 13, disrupting travel

BY KENJI HALL
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Gale-force winds pounded eastern Japan early Sunday, knocking out power to homes, stirring coastal waves that caused a tanker ship to run aground and injuring at least 13 people.

Tokyo and the surrounding cities were hit with gusts reaching 107 mph in Chiba prefecture, just east of the capital, according to the Meteorological Agency. Winds dislodged roof tiles, collapsed construction scaffolding and blew debris that broke windows and punched holes into buildings.

"The winds were as strong or stronger than a typhoon," agency official Kunihiko Yamanishi said.

An area of low pressure over the main island of Honshu caused the winds and was expected to do the same on the northeastern main island of Hokkaido, he said.

Police said 13 people suffered mostly minor injuries. One woman in her 70s dislocated her shoulder after being swept off her feet by a gust in Tayama city, a Chiba prefectural police official said on condition of anonymity.

At Tokyo's Haneda Airport, at least 50 flights were canceled early Sunday and dozens of other flights were delayed. High-speed "bullet" train services in the Tokyo metropolitan area were temporarily suspended, and local train lines were halted by fallen trees and landslides, officials said.

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Teens: Beware of ID theft

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Young people, particularly teenagers, are at a higher risk than mature folks for identity theft.

Experts at the Qwest 2004 Summit on Protecting Teens from Identity Theft found that teens tend to be more careless about sharing personal information, especially on the Internet. So teenagers, here are some tips to help you keep your identity safe:

■ Be smart online. Since most identity theft is perpetrated on the Internet, learn about the scams out there. Don't give away personal information. Don't respond to e-mails asking for such personal information, even if they appear to be from a legitimate source. If you like to shop online, make sure you're on a secure Web site.

■ Know what can be used to steal your identity. Your Social Security number, driver's license, bank account and credit information are all important to protect. But even seemingly trivial information can give thieves

or scammers an edge. Visit www.privacyactivism.org, where the game "Carabella Goes to College" will show you how your personal information can be manipulated.

■ Guard your personal information. Coaches, teachers, employers or other adults might ask for your Social Security number or additional personal information. Ask why it is needed, how it will be used and how the adult will protect it from them. If you don't think the information is necessary, don't be afraid to say no.

■ Neither a borrower nor a lender be. Don't lend your driver's license, Social Security card or other form of personal identification to anyone — even your best friend.

■ Check your credit. If you have a bank account or a credit card, review your statements for irregularities every month. Ask your parents about ordering your one free credit report each year from a credit-reporting agency. The report will list all credit accounts, loans and other debts in your name.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 6)	100.00
South Korean won (Dec. 4)	1,018.00
Euro (Dec. 6)	81.34
British pound (Dec. 6)	0.73
Chinese yuan (Dec. 6)	8.28
Commercial rates	
Bahraini (Dinar)	0.37
British pound	\$1.94
Canadian (Dollar)	0.70
Denmark (Krone)	6.57
Egypt (Pound)	0.22
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.34
India (Rupee)	184.16
Iceland (Krona)	61.81
Israel (Sheqel)	4.85
Japan (Yen)	102.89
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.26
Norway (Krone)	4.66
Philippines (Peso)	49.58
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.67
Singapore (Dollar)	1.04
South Korea (Won)	1.03
Switzerland (Franc)	1.13
Thailand (Baht)	39.36
Turkey (Lira)	1,408.62
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Commercial exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) are based on local bank exchange facilities. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar; except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

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Federal funds market rate	3.00
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30-year mortgage	5.75
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

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IN THE STATES

Parties urge vote on intel overhaul

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If House Republican leaders would allow a vote on post-Sept. 11 legislation overhauling the United States' intelligence community, it would easily pass, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers predicted Sunday.

A top Republican scolded opponents who worry the Pentagon would lose some of its authority, saying national security is far more important than turf battles. "There was a global intelligence failure. We can't have a status quo. We've got to change that," said Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The Republican-controlled House was to return Monday to decide whether lawmakers should vote on a House-Senate compromise to create a national intelligence director position to coordinate the nation's spy agencies and enact other anti-terror measures. If the House passes the bill, the Senate will return to the same House-Speaker Dennis Hastert decided not to allow a vote on the legislation last month.

Still, with the help of Democrats, there are enough Republican votes to push the measure through the House, several lawmakers said. Some argue that President Bush needs to be working harder to push the legislation through.

Kean: Time for intel reform may have passed

BY JAMES GORDON MEEK
New York Daily News

WASHINGTON — If President Bush fails to strong-arm stubborn House Republicans into passing an intelligence reform bill this week, other elements of his agenda will also be put in jeopardy, the head of the Sept. 11 commission says.

"Congress becomes dysfunctional if the president and Congress can't get these big issues taken care of, and then we're all in trouble," said Thomas Kean, the Republican who led the Sept. 11 investigation.

Kean, a former governor of New Jersey, said Bush might never again have as much political might behind a major piece of legislation.

"It'll be a long time before there's another bill with the support of the Republican and Democratic leadership in both Houses and the support of 80 percent of the American people in the polls," Kean told the New York Daily News.

Congress reconvenes in a rare winter session Monday, but Kean wearily said he fears the moment to pass the bill could be lost.

Republican leaders have raised the possibility of returning next month before the next Congress is sworn in to vote on the intelligence bill if there is a breakthrough.

After winning reelection, Bush said he "earned [political] capital ... and I'm going to spend it" — championing reforms of the tax code and Social Security.

But those goals might be left in doubt if Bush can't check off intelligence reform from his 2004 to-do list.

"I believe it will pass, but there's a chance it won't. It's not a slam dunk," Kean said with a heavy sigh.

Both he and Lee Hamilton, the Democrat who is vice chairman of the Sept. 11 panel, have expressed frustration over the blocking maneuvers by two House GOP leaders.

Kean's allies on Capitol Hill believe the Sept. 11 bill has fallen

victim to a Republican-on-Republican political feud. It involves payback by House conservatives to Senate Republicans and the White House for rolling them on unrelated issues, he said.

"They decided to put their feet in cement and picked our bill to do it, almost to teach the President a lesson," Kean said. "That's what I'm told."

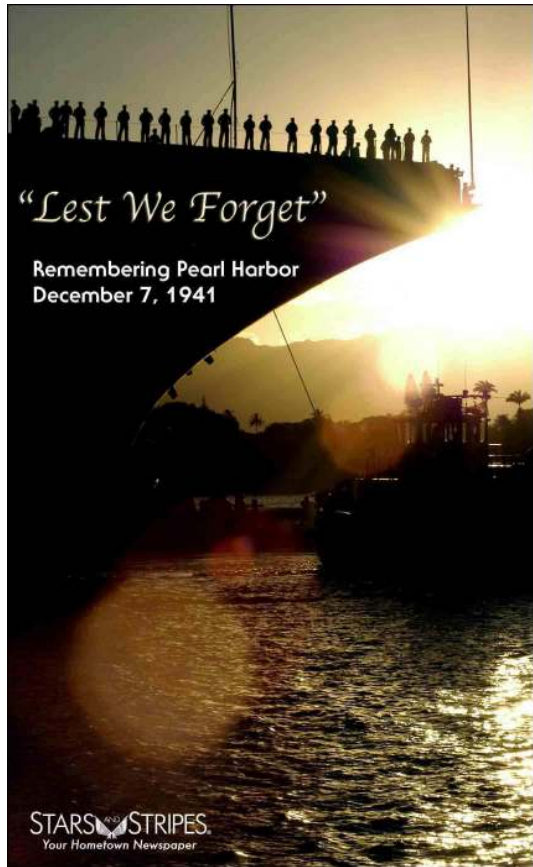
Kean admitted that the ups and downs of overhauling the entire intelligence establishment are tough to fathom.

"A lot of this has been confus-

ing since the day the President called and asked me to do this," Kean said half-jokingly.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, is pushing to deny illegal aliens driver's licenses — but aides admit he was willing to drop the issue at Bush's request in an earlier compromise agreement.

If the bill fails, Kean said, "We'll put something together next year, but it'll probably be six to nine months and won't be anywhere near as complete as this is."



Bin Laden trail gone cold, Musharraf says

BY ROBIN WRIGHT
AND PETER BAKER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Saturday that the search for Osama bin Laden has gone completely cold, with no recent intelligence indicating where he and his top lieutenants are hiding.

More than three years after al-Qaida's attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon killed almost 3,000 people, Musharraf insisted that Pakistani forces are still aggressively pursuing the world's most notorious terrorist. But he acknowledged that recent security force operations and interrogations have been able to determine only one fact: that bin Laden is still alive.

"He is alive but more than that, where he is, no, it'll be just a guess and it won't have much basis," Musharraf said in an interview with Washington Post editors and reporters. Pressed on whether the trail had gone cold, he said, "Yes, if you mean we don't know, from that point of view, we don't know where he is."

The United States shares major

responsibility, Musharraf suggested, because the U.S.-led coalition does not have enough troops in Afghanistan, which has left "voids." The United States and its allies need to expedite training and expansion of the new Afghan army as the only viable alternative, he said.

Challenges in Afghanistan would be better dealt with "if the Afghan national army is raised faster, in more strength, so that they can reach out to fill these voids that I am talking about, where U.S. forces or coalition forces are not there," he said.

The hunt for al-Qaida is also foundering because of the diffuse array of groups under its umbrella. Pakistani forces are usually not even certain who or what factions they are pursuing in the treacherous tribal regions along its border with Afghanistan, Musharraf said, speaking after a meeting with President Bush.

"Now, when we operate in many areas, we don't know who we are operating against and suddenly we find out that, OK, we've got [or] we've killed so-and-so," Musharraf said. Sometimes Pakistani forces just "bump into them," he added.

Protesters lobby for recount of Ohio votes

BY JOHN MCCARTHY
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — About 400 protesters gathered outside the Statehouse on Saturday to support a recount of the presidential election in Ohio and call for an investigation into Election Day irregularities.

Speakers addressing the crowd alleged that many voters were the victims of a fraud in which votes intended for John Kerry were given to President Bush.

"I would like to welcome you to the Ukraine," said Susan Truitt, referring to the country where a new presidential runoff election was ordered after observers said the first one was rigged.

On Friday, a federal judge in Columbus ruled that a recount may proceed if two minority party candidates who sued for it can pay for it. Green and Libertarian party officials say they can.

A recount would likely not begin before Dec. 13, when Ohio's 20 electoral votes are officially counted.

Kerry would have won the presidency had he carried the state's 20 electoral votes. He conceded the day after the election, saying there were not enough provisional and other ballots to swing the results his way.

Bush won the state by about 119,000 votes, or 2 percentage points, according to an analysis of county board of elections results by The Associated Press.

Critics say Ohio's numbers are suspect because of several irregularities on election night. Those included disparities in the vote totals for different Democrats on the same ballot and the disqualification of more than 90,000 presidential votes on punch-card ballots because the choices could not be determined. A computer glitch on election night also recorded an extra 3,893 votes for Bush in one precinct in suburban Gahanna.

"There was no doubt in my mind that Kerry had enough votes. My fear was the votes would not be counted and that's been borne out," said Melissa Hedden, one of the protesters.

State and county election officials have said there were irregularities on Nov. 2, but no more than in any other election.

They adamantly have denied there is any evidence of widespread wrongdoing.

The Kerry campaign has joined the lawsuit seeking a recount.

Officials said they are not disputing the outcome of the race but want to make sure any recount is "done accurately and completely."

Meth's aphrodisiac effects fade away

Officials: After initial boost, drug ultimately destroys sex drive

BY BILL POOVEY
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — At a recent task force meeting on the epidemic of methamphetamine use in Appalachia, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen warned when a federal prosecutor described the illegal drug as an aphrodisiac.

Doctors and government officials don't like to talk much about it, but there is an obvious reason people get hooked on methamphetamine: sex.

Meth eventually destroys the sex drive, but for a short while it can boost sexual appetite and performance more powerfully than drugs such as cocaine, doctors say.

"Who wouldn't want to use it? You lose weight and you have great sex," Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Laymon said sarcastically at the meeting of the Tennessee task force.

For obvious reasons, government officials want to focus on the misery meth causes.

Use of the addictive drug can

cause brain damage, violent behavior and hallucinations, and exposure to the potentially explosive vapors during the manufacture of meth can cause respiratory problems, headaches and nausea. In many gay clubs in New York City and elsewhere, meth is often injected, putting users and their partners at risk for HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases.

As for why the drug has such a hold on people, Dr. Mary Holley, an obstetrician who runs a Mothers Against Methamphetamine ministry in Albertville, Ala., and has interviewed men and women addicted to meth, said sex is the No. 1 reason people use it.

"The effect of an IV hit of methamphetamine is the equivalent of 10 orgasms all on top of each other lasting for 30 minutes to an hour, with a feeling of arousal that lasts for another day and a half," she said.

The effect doesn't last long.

"After you have been using it about six months or so you can't

"Who wouldn't want to use it? You lose weight and you have great sex."

Paul Laymon
Assistant U.S. attorney speaking sarcastically about methamphetamine

have sex unless you are high," Holley said. "After you have been using it a little bit longer you can't have sex even when you're high. Nothing happens. It doesn't work."

Dr. John Standridge, an addiction specialist with the Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services in Chattanooga, said meth and other stimulants initially "rev up the dopamine nervous system in the brain. They rev it up and burn it out."

A National Institute on Drug Abuse survey on drug use and health in 2002 found that 1.24 million Americans at least 12 years old — or about 5 percent of the population — had tried meth at least once in their lifetimes. In a measure of how serious the problem is in Appalachia, the total of 1,083 clandestine methamphetamine labs were cleaned up in Tennessee in 2003 — more than in any other state.

A meth task force appointed by Bredesen is recommending tougher penalties and expanded treatment for addicts.

Meth's reputation as a sex drug is not unique.

"A substance abuse is frequently used as a changing sex life or making you more attractive or a better social companion," said John Walters, the drug czar for President Bush. But he added that buying meth as an aphrodisiac is "buying under false pretenses."

"Hair falls out. Teeth fall out," Walters said. "That's not sexy."

NASCAR goes Nasty



TIM PARKS/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

2004 NASCAR Nextel Cup Champion Kurt Busch stands on the flight deck of the USS Intrepid on Friday at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum at Pier 86 in New York City. Busch was in New York City for the NASCAR Nextel Cup Banquet held Friday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria, where he was presented a check for \$5.3 million.

Antidepressants blamed in S.C. teen's killing of grandparents

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Joe Pittman's hands shook as he read his son's confession to a room full of strangers during a Food and Drug Administration hearing in Washington.

"I took everything out on my grandparents, who I loved so very much," wrote Christopher Pittman. "When I was lying in my bed that night, I couldn't sleep because my voice in my head kept echoing through my mind, telling me to kill them."

Authorities say three years ago, Christopher, then 12, shot his grandparents as they slept because they had scolded him for fighting on the school bus.

Joe Pittman thinks his son killed because his sense of right and wrong was clouded by the antidepressant Zoloft. He spoke out against the drug in a hearing early this year. The boy, who had threatened suicide, was put on the drug three weeks before the slayings, and his dose was doubled just two days earlier.

But prosecutors and police say Christopher's actions during and after the November 2001 slayings show he clearly knew what he was doing was wrong.

The boy waited until his grandparents were sleeping and took a pump-action shotgun from a gun cabinet. He crept into the couple's dark bedroom, first shooting

66-year-old Joe Frank Pittman in his open mouth, then firing into the back of 62-year-old Joy Pittman's head. He then set the house on fire and drove off in the family car.

When he got stuck on a dirt road 20 miles away, he told hunters he was kidnapped by a man who killed his grandparents, set the house on fire and drove off in the woods and ran away.

Christopher was living with his father's parents in hopes of turning his life around.

A month before the slayings, Christopher was hospitalized in Florida, where his father lives, after he threatened to kill himself. The boy was prescribed the antidepressant Paxil, but another doctor soon put him on Zoloft instead.

Pittman sent the boy to live with his grandparents in Chester County, an rural area between Columbia and Charlotte, N.C.

Christopher, who turns 16 in April, is being prosecuted as an adult and faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted at his trial, set to start next month. His lawyers argue that his case should be moved to Family Court, where if convicted, he could only be kept in custody until he turns 21.

Karen Denzies, one of Christopher's lawyers and an attorney specializing in lawsuits against antidepressant makers, said medical research is available to support the Zoloft defense.

In the three years since the murders, the FDA has become increasingly wary of doctors prescribing Zoloft and other antidepressants for children.

In October, the agency ordered the drugs to carry "black box" warnings about the government's strongest warning shot of a ban — about increasing the risk of suicidal behavior in children.

Pittman

FACES

Colin Firth: An actor in demand



AP photo
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER
Stars and Stripes

'Bridget Jones' sequel faced tricky obstacle of 1 actor, 2 characters

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — For Colin Firth, playing Mr. Darcy is old hat. He first portrayed the snooty Brit in the '90s TV miniseries "Pride and Prejudice" and then as his modern reincarnation Mark Darcy in the "Bridget Jones" films.

He's not as familiar, however, with playing himself.

In Helen Fielding's novel "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," the basis for the film of the same name, the irrepressible Bridget, now a "serious" journalist, interviews her screen idol Colin Firth — coincidentally, the same actor who plays her boyfriend in the film.

The scene never made it to the screen.

"It starts to get confusing. There was never any talk of Colin Firth appearing as a character," Firth tells Zap2it.com. In fact, during contract negotiations for 1999's "Bridget Jones's Diary," he was assured that — should the sequel film ever be made — there were "no plans to feature a character named Colin Firth."

Nevertheless, director Beeban Kidron still wrestled with the dilemma when she began developing "Edge of Reason." One possible solution that was immediately discarded involved casting another

actor to play the Firth character.

"We decided [that] was perhaps a little postmodern for the middle of the movie," says Kidron with a laugh.

The filmmakers even discussed casting a different celebrity as the object of Bridget's fascination, but eventually the entire episode fell by the wayside.

"We talked about it and we talked about it and we could not find a solution that didn't break the fourth wall," explains Kidron. "We could find lots of solutions ... but every time it seemed like it stopped the emotional flow of the movie."

Fans still hoping to see Bridget in a starstruck stupor over the actor won't be denied completely though.

"One day after filming, I asked Renee and Colin to stay behind."

Renee stayed in character, while Colin changed into his own clothes and came back as himself," says Kidron. "[So] we did film Renee as Bridget Jones interviewing Colin, which I've recently cut together and will go on the DVD."

The scene isn't meant to be part of the film, rather it was conceived as a stand-alone bonus.

Adds Kidron, "It was written, if not exactly as the book. There are a few treats for you in it, but I don't think I should say more."

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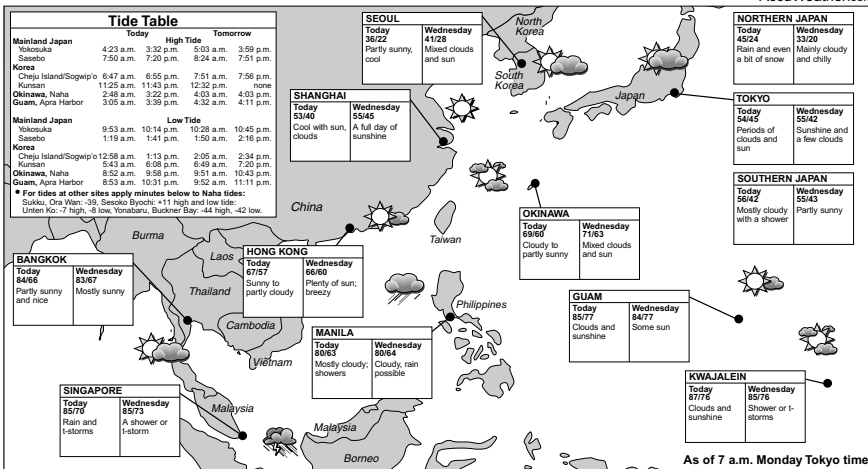
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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Thursday: Partly sunny, high 53, low 46.
Friday: Showers, high 60, low 51.

KADENA

Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 76, low 69.
Friday: Clouds and sunshine, high 79, low 67.

SEOUL

Thursday: Partly sunny, high 48, low 33.
Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 45, low 22.

MANILA

Thursday: Rain, high 82, low 67.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 85, low 70.

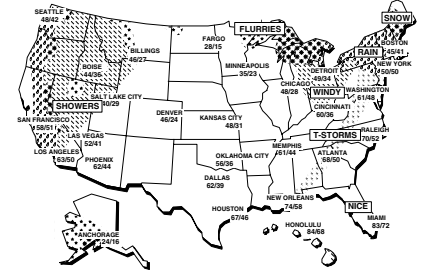
HAGATNA

Thursday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 78.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 87, low 77.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	49/30	Los Angeles	57/46
Amarillo	54/34	Little Rock	57/54
Anchorage	14/5	Louisville	61/50
Asheville	59/40	Miami	81/70
Baltimore	58/36	Milwaukee	41/37
Birmingham	62/56	Nashville	60/53
Bismarck	25/20	New York	54/37
Boise	37/23	Omaha	40/36
Boston	53/23	Orlando	77/58
Brownsville	85/71	Philadelphia	57/38
Buffalo	38/26	Phoenix	59/45
Burlington	37/15	Pittsburgh	50/36
Charleston, SC	69/50	Portland, OR	44/38
Charlotte	66/46	Portland, ME	47/11
Cleveland	46/38	Salt Lake City	35/21
Columbus, OH	54/41	St. Louis	52/49
Duluth	22/16	San Antonio	70/58
El Paso	57/45	San Diego	60/50
Hartford	55/22	San Juan	85/72
Helena	39/18	Tampa	78/62
Indianapolis	54/43	Tulsa	58/46
Jacksonville	69/52	Washington	60/42
Kansas City	49/43	Wichita	63/39

Tuesday, December 07



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system moving through the Midwest will bring some rain to portions of the mid-Atlantic states Tuesday. This storm system will also bring some showers and thunderstorms to portions of the Southeast. High pressure will bring dry weather to the northern, northern Rockies and northern California. On Wednesday, more rain and mountain snow will fall across the Northwest, northern Rockies and northern California. Dry weather will continue throughout the Plains, as well as expand eastward into the East. A few flurries will linger across the Northeast, particularly in western New England.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	84/66	Iwakuni	58/40
Beijing	43/32	Kadena AB	69/60
Camp Casey	37/22	Kunsan AB	46/32
Christchurch	55/39	Kwajalein	80/76
Diego Garcia	87/78	Manila	86/73
Hagatna	85/77	Masawa AB	48/31
Hanoi	69/56	Perth	58/46
Hong Kong	87/57	Pusan	51/33
Honolulu	84/68		

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	93/75	Budapest	43/36
Athens	62/47	Buenos Aires	77/52
Auckland	63/50	Cairo	76/53
Baghdad	63/39	Cancun	84/70
Barbados	88/71	Cape Town	77/60
Barcelona	52/40	Geneva	48/41
Berlin	44/36	Istanbul	49/37
Bermuda	70/62	Jakarta	83/64
Brussels	50/38	Johannesburg	72/53
		Moscow	32/25
		Nairobi	78/52
		New Delhi	78/50
		Oslo	42/30
		Paris	47/38
		Rio de Janeiro	79/69
		Rome	60/45
		St. Petersburg	37/30
		Stockholm	42/31
		Warsaw	41/32

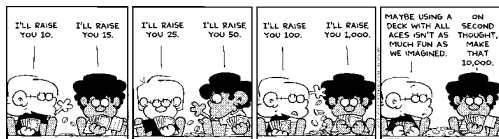


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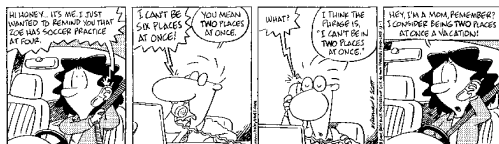
Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



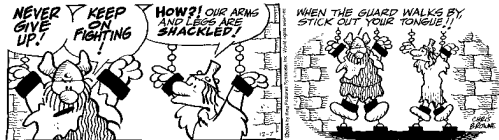
Blondie



Dilbert



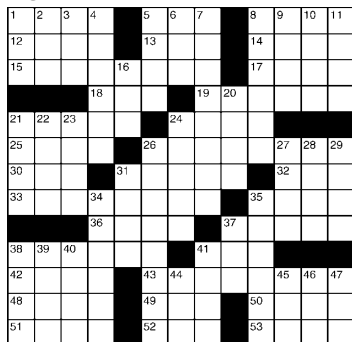
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Champing at the bit
5 The Cratchit kid
8 Overly theatrical
12 Location
13 — polloi
14 Exam format
15 Ex-stars
17 Puerto —
18 "Little Women" woman
19 Smoothed wood
21 Spinnaker supports
24 Judicious
25 Perry's creator
26 Get angry
30 Afternoon affair
31 "M*A*S*H" venue

Down

- 52 Crucial
53 Astute
23 Belarusian, e.g.
24 Imperfections
26 Con
27 Butterfly ballot bit
28 Seep out slowly
29 Small songbird
31 Dangling spot
34 Proofreader's nightmares
35 Rich, patterned fabric
37 "Poppycock!"
38 Huck's transport
39 Modern-day coin
40 Pull
41 Hinge (on)
44 Compete
45 Female kangaroo
46 Rage
47 Sawbuck

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-7

CRYPTOQUIP

AL PNCMK N ZHYFAKX
MK TCOHX NKEONG AL
ZCHYGXKN, POE MFV VECNL

XFXG'E MCHX TYEKN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEAR A
GRANDFATHER CLOCK WAS FOUND ATOP A
MOUNTAIN PEAK. WELL, IT'S HIGH TIME!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals D

Pizza delivery scandal

TX FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth police officer has resigned three months after being accused of offering a pizza delivery driver a break on a traffic ticket in exchange for pizzas.

Officer David Towson, who had been on the force five years, resigned in October after administrators recommended an indefinite suspension, which is the equivalent of being fired, police Lt. Abdul Pridgen said.

Towson, who was assigned to the traffic division, was placed on restricted duty in July after a pizza driver told internal affairs investigators that Towson offered to not write her a ticket if she would take pizzas to a certain address, Pridgen said.

Subway derailment

NY NEW YORK — An F train derailed near 34th Street and Sixth Avenue near Penn Station. No injuries were reported, but 57 passengers were evacuated from the train, which jumped the track.

Transit workers had been changing a rail, but had not locked it in place, causing the fourth car of the northbound train to derail about 300 feet south of 34th Street.

Fire officials reported a small fire resulted from the derailling, which was soon brought under control.

Hospital didn't break law

IL SPRINGFIELD — The state Supreme Court ruled that a hospital did not break the law by taking a patient off life support despite the wishes of his wife, who wanted his children to have the chance to say goodbye to him first.

The wife had asked doctors to not immediately withdraw life support after they determined Joseph Collins would not live long following a fall in April 1999. The doctors didn't wait and Collins died minutes before his children arrived at the hospital.

The family sued, arguing that the hospital had a duty to allow Andrea Collins to make health care decisions after doctors determined her husband couldn't make them himself, as required by state law.

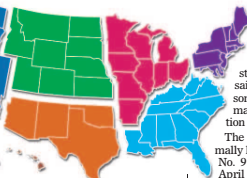
But the court ruled that because doctors didn't include their determination in the patient's medical record, the hospital had no legal obligation to name a health care surrogate.

Man released from jail

NC CHARLOTTE — A man who was accused of molesting more than a dozen children in North Carolina has been set free after 14 years behind bars because the victims recanted.

James Bernard Parker went as he walked out of a Brooklyn, N.Y., courthouse and embraced a sister he hadn't seen in 15 years. He had been given three life terms plus 60 years in prison for charges of molesting four children.

When Parker was charged in 1990, authorities said at least 19 children had been attacked in Monroe, where he lived. Police found



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

no physical evidence, even though children told stories of being tied to trees and fed poisoned ice cream. They also gave a wide range of descriptions of their attacker.

After Parker was convicted in 1991, he wrote letters to several news organizations and legal groups maintaining his innocence and asking for help.

The Charlotte Observer ran stories in 2002 in which 15 reported victims and witnesses said the crimes never happened or that Parker wasn't the attacker. The only three boys who testified against Parker have since signed affidavits saying Parker didn't commit the crimes.

Lincoln artifacts sell big

CA LOS ANGELES — A unique portrait of Abraham Lincoln sold for a record \$85,000 and a copy of Robert E. Lee's farewell address to his troops went for \$70,000 at an auction of manuscripts and other historical items.

The buyers at the Bonhams & Butterfields auction were private and their identities were not disclosed.

The 16-by-19-inch Lincoln portrait, taken by Alexander Gardner on Aug. 9, 1863, is the only one known that shows the former presi-

dent sitting in a chair with his head posed on his hand. In most photographs, his hands are crossed or placed stiffly on the chair arms, said Catherine Williamson, director of books and manuscripts for the auction house.

The two-page letter is formally known as General Order No. 9 and was composed on April 10, 1865, a day after Lee signed the formal surrender of Confederate troops. It is one of the most collectible documents for Civil War buffs, Williamson said.

Teens charged with murder

AK BARROW — Two high school seniors charged with killing a cabdriver during a robbery got away with about \$100, court records show.

Now, Phillip Burnell and Dominic Lozano are in jail, held on \$250,000 bonds.

Each stands charged with second-degree murder and first-degree robbery in the shooting death of Sangkhon "Sam" Promdonglao, a former Buddhist monk driving a cab to raise money for his family in Thailand.

Barrow residents are shaking their heads in disbelief, said Ted Kiriput, a friend of the slain driver.

"It's a no-win situation for Barrow," said Kiriput, a 20-year resident of the city. "We lost one cabdriver. Now we lost two kids. I really feel bad about this because I know those families."

Mobile home explosion

OK TAHLEQUAH — A mobile home police believe might have been used as a methamphetamine lab burst into flames after an explosion, killing two adults and two children.

The parents of the children, ages 2 and 5, were at a casino at the time of the early morning fire, police said. The two men who died in the blaze were not related to the children.

Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like a gunshot or an exploding aerosol can and police said they found items at the scene that could have been used to make methamphetamine.

Nativity decoration stolen

MA QUINCY — The Patriot Ledger has offered a \$1,000 reward for information on the theft of a life-sized baby Jesus figure.

Police said the 20-inch statue was stolen from a Nativity scene at a cemetery adjacent to Quincy's city hall. Other figures in the display are screwed to the manger's base and the fiberglass Jesus was glued to its crib to deter vandals, the newspaper reported.

"It's our sincere hope that the reward will contribute to the speedy return of this symbol of the season's religious significance," Patriot Ledger Editor Chazy Dowdally said.

The \$30,000 display was paid for by Quincy's churches following a 2001 controversy over the city's placement of a Nativity display in front of city hall.



Christmas cheer

Port Charlotte, Fla., resident Julia Razka, 3, center, joins in the fun in front of a snow-making machine during the lighting of the town Christmas tree in downtown Punta Gorda, Fla.



Eating it up

Sonya Thomas, left, of Alexandria, Va., sneaks a peek at competitors Charles Hardy, center, and Ed Jarvis, right, during a meatball eating contest at Carmine's in Atlantic City.



Shooting the breeze

Bravo, a 7-month-old male cheetah cub, takes a break with CJ, a 5-month-old Anatolian shepherd puppy, at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati. The two just arrived at the zoo from Capetown, South Africa, along with another cheetah cub. Dogs are being used by shepherds in South Africa to help protect their herds from predators.



One last mow

Ron Svoboda uses his lawn mower to collect the last fall leaves during the first snowstorm of the season in Bellevue, Neb.



Graduation celebration Leah Kosareff, a biology major, gets her family's attention as she takes part in the first Cal State Bakersfield winter commencement ceremony in Bakersfield, Calif.



Story time Kiara, 5, left, and Jakiea, 5, right, laugh as they listen to Ann Romney, wife of Massachusetts' governor, not pictured, read a book at Higginson Elementary School in Boston. gubernatorial spouses from around the nation volunteer as "Ambassadors of Reading" to lead their respective states in reading celebrations.



Snag in moving plans A house being moved is shown stuck on Fair Avenue in Marquette Township, Mich.

Video game prison ban

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Prison officials are no longer allowing Missouri's most violent criminals to have access to video games with titles such as "Hitman: Contracts."

Officials pulled 35 of more than 80 Sony PlayStation 2 games from the recreation center at the state's new maximum-security facility after being told they simulate murder, carjackings and the killing of police officers.

The games, paid for with profits from purchases at the prison canteen, included some of the most violent on the market, including "Hitman: Contracts."

Neglect alleged in death

FL BOCA RATON — A 4-month-old baby died while his parents were on a three-day crack cocaine binge that began after Thanksgiving dinner, police said.

The cause of death was not immediately clear. Sonia Thomas, 39, and Neal Anthony Bryan, 46, have been charged with child neglect.

More charges could be filed after autopsy results are available, police spokesman Jeff Kelly said.

Thomas said she could not remember when she had last fed the baby because "she was messed up on crack" and tired, the report said. It said the couple admitted smoking about \$500 worth of crack cocaine over three days.

Thomas was being held without bail. Bryan was held on \$10,000 bail.

Teacher concealed DWI

NH NASHUA — A school driving instructor convinced his co-workers to handle his on-road duties while his license remained temporarily suspended for driving while intoxicated, the school superintendent said.

Arthur Desmeules, 66, of the Nashua school district, concealed his 2003 DWI conviction, claiming his eyes were giving him trouble. Superintendent Joe Giuliano told The Union Leader in a story published.

Giuliano said he discovered the conviction "when a reporter brought him a copy of the complaint, which was on file in Manchester District Court. Desmeules lives in Manchester. Giuliano said he told Desmeules he would be fired, and he made it official in a letter to him.

Rape charges dropped

MN EMIDJI — Citing new information, a prosecutor said he will drop charges against three male Bemidji State University seniors — including a former star hockey player — who were accused of raping an 18-year-old female student while an off-duty sheriff's deputy recorded the scene on a cell phone camera.

"Facts which were unknown at the time of charging... significantly impact the ability for the state to prove criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt," assistant Anoka County Attorney Paul Young, a special prosecutor in the case, said in a written statement.

The prosecutor also announced that charges won't be brought against Beltrami County deputy Jeffrey Andersen, 25.

Four wolves killed

AK ANCHORAGE — Private airplane pilots have gunned down the first four wolves from the air in what could be the biggest government-sponsored killing of the animals since Alaska statehood.

State game managers believe the effort, targeting more than 500 of the predators for death, should make moose and caribou more plentiful in coming years. The goal is to give hunters a better chance to fill their freezers.

Opponents say the program is unnecessary. They believe that the predator-prey balance in most of the state is within normal levels and that moose and caribou herds don't need human intervention.

Industrial accident

TX SAN ANTONIO — A man was killed in critical condition after a 1-inch-thick hook went through his skull in an accident at a heavy equipment dealership.

Wayne Gail Creek, 62, remained conscious and even spoke with rescuers after a metal hook attached to a backhoe went completely through his head at Holt Caterpillar.

Rescuers spent two hours using special welding equipment to cut him free.

He was taken to University Hospital with part of the hook still in his head.

Reindeer travel restricted

TN KNOXVILLE — Kyle Wilson's son's reindeer have been reined in for the holidays.

Wilson normally makes good money in December transporting his reindeer to Christmas events around the Southeast. But this year, states seeking to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have curtailed Dancer and Dasher's itinerary.

In Kentucky, for example, Wilson said officials stopped him at the state line and warned him there could be repercussions if he tried to attend a Santa-and-his-reindeer event there.

In recent years, chronic wasting disease has spread from a small region along the Colorado-Wyoming line to some Western and Midwestern states. The disease of the nervous system is contagious and incurable.

Some states are taking the threat seriously. In North Carolina, importing reindeer is banned and their travel is mostly restricted.

Bus driver fired

NY GRAND ISLAND — A Buffalo-area school bus driver lost her job because she talked to elementary school students about stem cell research, school officials said. Julianne Thompson said she was just sharing what she found to be interesting facts. School district officials said the conversation was inappropriate.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Behind-the-lines GIs work hard

I keep reading letters telling soldiers in Kuwait, Afghan and other posts behind the lines to stop their complaining, that they have no complaints. These soldiers believe if you aren't in Iraq getting shot at, you aren't in combat. I'm tired of hearing this.

I have been in the infantry for eight years on active duty, then in transportation in the National Guard for six and now I'm in finance. I have been deployed and on the front lines. I have been shot at, mortared and whatever else they could throw at us. Now, after being deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom I, I'm back here for OIF-33. The only difference is that I am in Kuwait, "behind the lines."

I saw a lot of the first time; had a lot to complain about, but still drove on. Now, I might not see all that, but I still have problems here, and trust me, we might have it good here, but we still want to be home.

Being in finance, I see the hard work these soldiers do, the hours they put in, the crap they put up with from soldiers who think everything is finance's fault.

The other support units have it the same way. Do we work hard here to support the front lines. The bullets might be missing, but the stress is still here. In the end, we all deal with being away from home.

So I wish these front-line soldiers would

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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E-mail: letters@starsandstripes.com

come down off their "Hoah-nees" and stop knocking the behind-the-lines soldiers for their duty assignments. We all have a job to complete and then go home, so let's do it together and get out of this place.

Staff Sgt. William Gazar
Doha, Kuwait

He wants to go 'north'

I am one of the "whining soldiers" addressed in the Nov. 28 letter "Start acting like soldiers."

I dislike Doha and anything to do with Kuwait. I would prefer to be in Iraq, doing what I was trained for but, instead, I am relegated to Kuwait, mopping up after all those who walk around here with the attitude, "I'm a combat vet! Outta my way!"

Unfortunately, I am the only military policeman assigned to my current installation, and get a chance to see it all. I deal with many issues that are command issues, not something for the MPs.

I have gone as far as volunteering for assignments in Iraq, volunteering to go extend, and volunteering to even go extra incentive pay for my extra time.

My pleas have gone unanswered. I am a reservist and a police officer in my other life, and I long to train other officers. I am overqualified for my current assignment.

If you know of a way to get me "north," I am all ears. If not, remember some of us are not happy to be here and would change places with you in a heartbeat.

Sgt. Steve Van Erden
Camp Doha, Kuwait

How professors may cheat students

College students are telling on their professors, and what they say is that some cheating is going on, at least if you think it's cheating to teach just one side of political issues and use

... authority for purposes of indoctrination.

This information comes by way of a survey sponsored by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

Researchers interviewed 658 students at 50 of the nation's most highly ranked colleges and universities and discovered the following: Seventy-four percent reported that their professors say nice things about liberals.

Forty-seven percent say they bash conservatives. Sixty-two percent said professors praised Sen. John Kerry during the recently completed presidential campaign. Sixty-eight percent reported uncomplicated assessments of George W. Bush. Even in courses having nothing to do with politics, professors bring up politics, said 49 percent of the students. To get the grades you want, it pays to be on board with a professor's political ideas, said 29 percent of the students. Some 49 percent find campus panel discussions and other presentations on politics to be one-sided.

These are significant percentages. Although equally significant percentages of the interviewed students take contrary positions, it's not as if law widespread confirmation through other surveys, articles and books that the vast majority of college professors are liberal Democrats and that many of them favor their biases over objective instruction in the classroom.

The worst of it is not that America's professoriate has taken sides. ... The worst of it, some serious observers agree, is that so many professors on some campuses subscribe to and are trying to further a radically relativistic, subjectivist view of reality. It is a view in which all cultures are about the same except for one that sinks particularly low because of its racism, chauvinism, ethnocentrism, greed, corruption and outsize power of its government, namely the culture of the United States of America.

I know of this in part from a student who told me a few years ago about a college course on U.S. history that was almost exclusively focused on slavery, the killing of Indians, segregation and unfair treatment of women. Practically all societies have been guilty of such evils, an American difference being that we have been fixing our faults while our remarkable land has simultaneously degraded a degree of liberty virtually unexamined in this world.

I recently heard a discussion featuring Victor Davis Hanson, a writer and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, a think-tank where I have been a media fellow. Hanson

said Rome thrived when Romans thought it a wonderful thing to be Romans, and that it disintegrated when they no longer valued being Roman. He worried that Americans no longer recognize how exceptional they are in history. A problem, he said, is that we are forever measuring ourselves against perfection instead of against other societies. Next to them we fare extremely well.

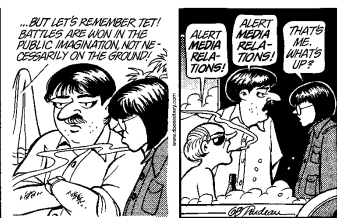
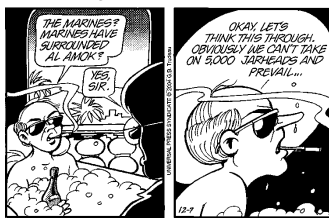
Colleges and universities should help cultivate an understanding of why it is blessed to be American. ... A sign of how far we are from that goal is found in a review in a political science journal of several books, including one by William Bennett, former U.S. education secretary.

Bennett is quoted as having written in "Why We Fight" that on the Sunday after the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001, there was a Pledge of Allegiance at his alma mater of Williams College that was attended by "two hundred students, numerous maintenance and cafeteria workers, the college president ... and exactly one professor."

We need more professors like that one, and there are a number of, of course, but don't look for really huge numbers of conservatives to ... thrive on campuses where they are a minority unprotected by the rules of tolerance that apply to other minority groups. We need more professors who are liberal ... to provide students with competing ideas.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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OPINION

Fallujah campaign gives Iraq vote a chance

BY MAX BOOT

"Nothing except a battle lost can be half as melancholy as a battle won."

—The Duke of Wellington

The news media are taking Wellington's dictum to heart. They seem positively dependent upon the battle of Fallujah.

It is right and proper to mourn the deaths of 71 Americans and the wounding of hundreds more. As Wellington realized, martial glory rings hollow when weighed against the cost in blood. But it is wrong to rush to the opposite extreme by assuming, as so much of the current commentary implicitly does, that war solves nothing and that all casualties are meaningless. In fact, many of the turning points of history have been battles, such as Wellington's victory at Waterloo, which ended for all time the threat of French expansionism in Europe.

Obviously the battle of Fallujah was not as decisive as Waterloo; few battles are. But that shouldn't blind us to the accomplishments of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which led the offensive along with U.S. Army and Iraqi soldiers.

Coalition troops killed 1,200 to 1,600 guerrillas and captured more than 1,000. They uncovered 26 bomb factories, 350 arms caches (containing thousands of weapons), several chemical weapons laboratories and eight houses where hostages have been and probably tortured and killed. And they accomplished all this with less than half the number of casualties suffered in Hue, Vietnam, in the last major urban assault mounted by the Marine Corps.

As significant as what happened is what didn't happen. The second battle of Fallujah did not turn into a public relations debacle,

as did the attack in April. The Marines cleverly began this campaign by occupying the main hospital in Fallujah, which, in the spring, had been the source of inflated claims about civilian casualties. There was no uprising in the streets of Najaf or Karbala — or Cairo or Amman — to protest the second assault on Fallujah. The Iraqi interim government held together behind the fierce determination of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to fight the terrorists.

The only major PR snafu came when a journalist taped a Marine shooting a wounded insurgent. Though edited replayed on Al-Jazeera (which refused to show the video of terrorists apparently slaughtering aid worker Margaret Hassan), there is no sign that this action has cost the United States any public support in Iraq. On the contrary, many Iraqis, fed up with terrorist attacks, no doubt applauded the Marine's ruthlessness.

This is not meant to suggest that everything went perfectly. Many terrorists were able to escape Fallujah before the assault and create mayhem in Mosul, where the local police folded with dismayed speed.

But U.S. and Iraqi forces quickly shifted their focus to the north and snuffed out the uprising in Mosul. Now they are pressing their offensive in the "triangle of death" south of Baghdad.

The best news of recent days is the growing competence of Iraqi security forces. Two thousand Iraqis fought alongside 10,000 Americans in Fallujah and, by all reports, they performed reasonably well. In the operations south of Baghdad, Iraqis are said to outnumber British and American troops.

Skeptics are right to point out that no insurgency can be defeated by force alone, but it's also true that effective military action is usually a prerequisite for a political settlement. Only if the insurgents are convinced



they cannot shoot their way to power will they give up their guns.

The clashes with Muqtada al-Sadr's Al-Mahdi militia this summer proves the point. After being whipped by U.S. forces, the Shiite rabble-rouser decided to join the electoral process. Sadr City, once among the most dangerous areas of Iraq for U.S. troops, has become relatively quiet. The hope now is that the fall of Fallujah will convince more Sunnis of the futility of armed resistance, while elections on Jan. 30 will convince them that their grievances can be addressed through peaceful means.

Even in a best-case scenario, however, the bombings and beheadings won't end the day after the vote. It can take a decade or more to defeat an insurgency (Colombia has been

fighting Marxist guerrillas since 1966), and even a small number of determined fighters can wreak mayhem. In the 1970s, fewer than 100 members of the Baader-Meinhof gang terrorized West Germany, a country that is considerably more populous and more stable than Iraq, which is estimated to have at least 10,000 insurgents.

Thus, for all their success in Fallujah, we should not expect U.S. troops to completely pacify Iraq any time soon. What they can do — what they are doing — is to keep the insurgents from derailing a political process that, one hopes, soon will result in the creation of a legitimate government that can field ingenious security forces and defend itself.

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

New leadership for NAACP can send right message

BY STAR PARKER

The surprise resignation of Kweisi Mfume as president of the NAACP should prompt national leaders to engage in introspection and re-evaluation.

The national leadership has lost its way. Its current message today to its own community that is, at best, irrelevant and, at worst, destructive. Its agenda, the pure politics of victimization, is a caricature of what the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was originally about.

The heads of local NAACP chapters that I meet are out of step with their national leaders and sound much more like local church pastors.

Perhaps because these chapter heads live in close proximity to the troubled communities with which they work, they understand that the problems in black communities today reflect the challenges of the business of living and not the business of politics.

As John McWhorter of the Manhattan Institute has aptly put it, today racism is not the main problem of African-Americans, but rather "the mundane tasks of teaching those 'left behind' after the civil rights victory how to succeed in a complex society."

The NAACP has a proud history at the center of the civil rights movement. But, recall the old saying that everything looks like a nail to a man with a hammer. For years, physical, political and legal barriers stood between blacks and freedom. The NAACP and the civil rights movement were born to tear these barriers down and won historic and glorious victories.

Unfortunately, after the victories of the 1960s, black leadership, typified by the NAACP, transformed a creative struggle for

liberation into the destructive politics of anger and guilt. By turning their energies to building a new welfare state and culture of litigation, these leaders of the 1960s created as many problems as they solved.

On the one hand, there have been undeniable gains in the black community. A new black middle class has emerged in which the percentage of black households with a real gross income above \$75,000 has quadrupled since 1970. The wage gap percentage between black and white workers is half today of what it was in the 1960s. Blacks now hold top-level positions in government and business that would have been inconceivable 40 years ago.

Yet, a large slice of black life is in sad shape and going backward. Over the same period since the 1960s, black illegitimacy

has almost quadrupled, black families headed by single women have tripled, almost half the number of homicides in the country are among black men, half of our new AIDS cases are among black women, many black kids do not make it through school and those who graduate do so with eighth-grade reading skills, and crime and unemployment are rampant in our inner cities.

The shock waves that shook this organization were created by Bill Cosby's remarks at a NAACP gathering earlier this year.

In those well-publicized observations, Cosby shocked the black establishment with truth. He attacked the politics of victimization — the very point of existence today of the NAACP. Cosby began a campaign that night, which he continues today, of formulating a message that will foster a new culture of responsibility in the inner cities.

A number of months ago I was invited to address an annual meeting of a local NAACP chapter in a Midwestern city. The invitation came somewhat reluctantly as result of pressure from a local donor who had made a recent major contribution to the chapter. Nevertheless, I delivered my usual message that the answer to poverty does not lie in government but in personal responsibility, ownership and faith. The standing ovation I got told me that I had indeed struck a responsive chord.

As the NAACP leadership looks for a new president, I urge them to stop looking in the rear view mirror and start focusing on the road ahead.

Star Parker is president of Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education and author of the recently published book "Uncle Sam's Plantation."

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Tuesday

APN-Sports, 2:30 a.m.—College football: Big XII Conference championship, Oklahoma Sooners at Kansas State.

APN-Sports, 8:30 a.m.—NFL: ESPN NFL Football on Kansas City.

APN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College football: Big XII Conference championship, Oklahoma Sooners at Kansas State.

APN-Sports, 5 p.m.—NFL: Dallas at Seattle (cld).

APN-Sports, 8 p.m.—Boxing: Jermain Taylor vs. William Joppy at Litle Rock, Ark. for the WBC Confederal Americas middleweight title (cld).

APN-Sports, 11:30 p.m.—NBA: Miami at Utah (cld).

Wednesday

APN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: Dallas at Seattle (cld).

APN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Milwaukee at Chicago (cld).

APN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Memphis vs. Pittsburgh at New York.

APN-Sports, 10 a.m.—NBA: Dallas at Oklahoma State (cld).

APN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Oklahoma State vs. Syracuse at New York.

APN-Sports, 5 a.m.—NBA: New Orleans at Houston (cld).

APN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.—NBA: Charlotte at Sacramento (cld).

All times Japan and Korea Standard Time; due to daylight savings time. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.mynfl.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Sunday

1. Wake Forest (-1) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Monday, Dec. 6.

2. Kansas (-4) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee, Thursday, Dec. 9.

3. Syracuse (-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Oklahoma State, Saturday, Dec. 12.

4. Georgia Tech (-4) vs. Georgia. Next: vs. Arizona, Monday, Dec. 13.

5. Illinois (-6) did not play. Next: vs. Chicago, Sunday, Dec. 12.

6. Oklahoma State (-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Memphis, Monday, Dec. 13.

7. Connecticut (-3) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern, Monday, Dec. 13.

8. Kentucky (-4) did not play. Next: vs. Morehead State, Monday, Dec. 13.

9. North Carolina (-6) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Saturday, Dec. 12.

10. Duke (-5) did not play. Next: vs. Toledo, Saturday, Dec. 12.

11. Michigan State (-4, 2) beat Georgia Washington 78-67, Saturday, Dec. 12.

12. Maryland (-4, 2) lost to Georgia Washington 78-67, Saturday, Dec. 12.

13. North Carolina (-6) did not play. Next: at Asheville, Sunday, Dec. 12.

14. Kentucky (-4) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

15. Mississippi State (-1) vs. Eastern Washington. Next: vs. San Diego State, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

16. Mississippi State (-1) vs. North Carolina. Next: vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, Saturday, Dec. 12.

17. Louisville (-4, 1) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Florida, Saturday, Dec. 12.

18. Louisville (-4, 1) did not play. Next: vs. North Texas, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

19. Florida (-4, 1) did not play. Next: vs. Stetson, Wednesday, Dec. 13.

20. North Carolina (-3) did not play. Next: at Indiana, Wednesday, Dec. 13.

21. Kentucky (-4, 2) vs. No. 15 Mississippi State. Next: vs. Utah, Saturday, Dec. 12.

22. Kentucky (-4, 2) did not play. Next: at Alabama State, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

23. Kentucky (-4, 2) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Iowa, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

24. Kentucky (-4, 2) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

25. Wisconsin (-6) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Sunday's men's scores

Edinboro 86, East Stroudsburg 55.

Kutztown 86, Slippery Rock 69.

Rider 62, Iona 61.

SOUTH

Chattanooga 66, Tennessee 68.

Winthrop 67, Sigma Chi 66.

NORTHWEST

Orlando 70, Tulsa 63.

BBT Classic

Michigan 52, George Mason 60.

Championship game: Washington 101, Maryland 92.

Saturday's men's scores

EAST

Albany 74, Elizabethtown 70, OT.

American U. 67, Vermont 64.

Amherst 71, W. New England 69.

Arctic 38, Neumann 57.

Bart 73, Pratt 67.

Bentley 82, St. Anselm 81.

Boston U. 66, New Hampshire 52.

Brandeis 74, Suffolk 57.

Curt 62, Connecticut 55.

Bucknell 73, Wesley 65.

Buffalo 51, New Paltz 61.

Cabrini 69, Yale 57.

Presby-Melton 78, Rochester 71.

Cedarville 64, Geneva 78.

Chestnut Hill 63, D'Youville 48.

Clarion 77, Bloomsburg 60.

College of St. Rose 72, OT.

Connecticut 74, Indiana 69.

Cornell 62, St. John 72.

Cortland 32, Alfred 70.

Delaware 62, Johns Hopkins 64.

Drexel 57, Saint Joseph 49.

Edinboro 82, Mansfield 72.

Ferris State 66, Michigan State 63.

Franklin & Marshall 89, Haverford 78.

Gettysburg 76, McDaniel 55.

Gettysburg 76, McDaniel 55.

Hamilton 62, UMass 60.

Indiana 64, Middlebury 68.

Keene 52, B.A. Bartmouth 69.

Kean 66, Delaware 66.

Kutztown 64, California, Pa. 57.

Laurens 66, California, Pa. 57.

Livingstone 60, WU Tech 57.

Long Island 50, Wagner 73.

Long Island 50, Wagner 73.

Mary 78, Harvard 66.

McBryen 66, Washington, D.C. 64.

Mt. St. Mary's, Md. 70, Sacred Heart 58.

Nebraska 66, Washington, D.C. 64.

N.J. Tech 68, Holy Family 65.

N.Y.U. 83, Nazareth 68.

New England Coll. 52, St. Nazarene 48.

Penn. State 66, American International 65.

Penn. State 66, American International 65.

Penn. State 66, American International 65.

Philadelphia 74, New Haven 62.

Pittsburgh 87, Duquesne 57.

Pittsburgh 87, Duquesne 57.

Potsdam 81, Brockport 81.

Potsdam 81, Brockport 81.

RPI 64, Middlebury 56.

Salve Regina 72, Gordon 51.

Shepherd 82, Davis & Elkins 67.

Springfield 61, Westfield 67.

Springfield 61, Westfield 67.

St. Francis, Ind. 64, Carmel 54.

St. Francis, Ind. 64, Carmel 54.

St. Rose 91, Assumption 66.

St. Rose 91, Assumption 66.

Stonewall 73, Lehigh 66.

Syracuse 64, Colgate 62.

Syracuse 64, Colgate 62.

Texas 74, Seton Hall 62.

UMBC 62, Towson 60.

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Wagner 73, Lehigh 66.

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Wichita 70, Buffalo 53.

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Western Michigan 66, Eastern Michigan 68.

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Merced 71, Jacksonville 67.

Miami 72, Florida 66.

Michigan 66, St. Louis 66.

Morgan 52, St. Carolina 58, OT.

North Carolina 51, Alabama 69.

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North Carolina

Geo. Washington upsets Maryland

Colonials claim nation's capital bragging rights in BB&T finale

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — T.J. Thompson scored 27 points and George Washington up No. 12 Maryland 101-92 on Sunday in the championship game of the BB&T Classic, the Colonials' fifth straight victory.

J.R. Pinnock added 22 points and Omar Williams scored 11 of his 14 in the second half for the Colonials (5-1), who beat No. 11 Michigan State 96-83 in the semifinals. George Washington's only loss was its season opener at top-ranked Wake Forest.

John Gilchrist led Maryland (4-2) with 23 points, Nik Caner-Medley had 16 and James Gist and Travis Garrison 12 each. Maryland, which made only 14 of 28 free throws, has lost two of three.

George Washington claimed its third BB&T championship and denied the Terrapins their fifth in the tournament's 10-year history. Maryland rebounded from an eight-point deficit at halftime to take a 58-57 lead on Gist's tip-in 5:46 into the second half. Gist, a freshman reserve, scored 10 points in 3½ minutes to spark the struggling Terrapins.

But the Colonials broke the Maryland press, getting three-pointers from Thompson and Hall, and Ricky Lucas capped a 15-9 spur by scoring on an offensive rebound for a 76-69 lead.

Two baskets by Gilchrist got the Terrapins within 83-82, but Williams made a three-pointer from the right side and Pinnock hit a short jumper to put George Washington up 88-82.

Pinnock's slam on a fast break made it 94-89 with 41 seconds left and the Colonials hit seven of eight free throws down the stretch.

George Washington shot 59 percent (20-for-34) from the field



George Washington's T.J. Thompson (5) is a happy man after the Colonials upset No. 12 Maryland on Sunday in Washington, D.C.

and took advantage of 10 Maryland turnovers to score 12 points en route to a 49-41 halftime lead. The Colonials were 6-of-9 from beyond the arc.

No. 11 Michigan St. 66, George Mason 60: In the BB&T consolation game, Maurice Ager scored 13 points and Michigan State (4-2) bounced back from a loss to George Washington to beat George Mason.

Alan Anderson and Paul Davis

each added 12 points for the Spartans. Lamar Butler led the Patriots (3-3) with 19 points and Jay Lewis added 12.

Butler scored 11 of the first 15 points in the second half for the Patriots, who trailed by nine points with 14:58 to go.

Lewis' inside basket with 9:26 left got George Mason within 51-49, but he missed the free throw to convert a three-point play. John Vaughn's fast-break basket cut the Spartans' lead to

56:55 with 4:59 remaining.

Davis and Anderson scored to make it 62-57 before Vaughn converted a three-pointer from the left corner with 23 seconds left, pulling the Patriots within four points.

In Saturday games:

No. 3 Syracuse 68, Colgate 55: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick scored 23 points and Terrence Roberts scored six of his 13 points during a decisive second-half spurt to help Syracuse (7-0) beat Colgate for the 39th straight time.

After Colgate's Jon Simon hit a runner in the lane as the shot-clock buzzer sounded 10:42 to tie the game at 44-44, Roberts and Warrick led the Orange on a 13-1 run that sealed it. Josh Pace had 12 points for Syracuse, and Roberts made the second three-pointer of his career and also had eight rebounds.

Simon led Colgate (2-4) with 18 points, Andrew Zidar had 12 points and eight rebounds, and Alvin Reed had nine points.

No. 13 Pittsburgh 87, Duquesne 57: At Pittsburgh, Chris Taft had 16 points, Chevon Troutman added 15 points and 11 rebounds and Carl Krauser scored 15 as Pitt reached 5-0 for the fifth straight season.

The inside dominance of Troutman and Taft repeatedly forced Duquesne (1-7) to settle for contested outside shots. Duquesne went 8-for-25 from three-point range to 10-of-20 for Pittsburgh. Jack Higgins scored 17 points in a reserve role for Duquesne, the fifth consecutive Pitt opponent to be held to fewer than 60 points. Kieron Achara had 13 and Bryant McAllister scored 11.

No. 22 Alabama 102, Charlotte 101 (3OT): At Charlotte, N.C., Kennedy Winston scored 33 points and hit a 16-foot jumper with 20.5 seconds left in the third overtime as Alabama (6-1) held off Charlotte (3-2).

No. 23 Iowa 83, UNC-Greensboro 58: At Iowa City, Iowa, Pierre Pierce and Adam Haluska scored 17 points apiece and Iowa (6-1) won its Hawkeye Challenge.

No. 24 Wisconsin 70, Rutgers 62: At Piscataway, N.J., senior forward Mike Wilkinson hit 10 of 14 shots and scored a career-high 26 points as Wisconsin (4-1) handed Rutgers.

Cowboys' numbers add up to a laugher

By Jeff LATZKE

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Dick Bennett shook his head. He folded his arms. He called timeouts and consulted with his Washington State team. There just wasn't anything he could do to get the ball to go into the basket.

The Cougars (3-2) went more than nine minutes before scoring their first basket and had four more stretches of at least four minutes without a field goal in an 81-29 loss Saturday to No. 6 Oklahoma State.

John Lucas III (19 points) and Joey Graham (18) continued to outscore the Cougars, who had one of the worst offensive outings since the three-point shot came to college basketball in the 1986-87 season. Georgia Southern was limited to 21 in a 40-point loss to Coastal Carolina on Jan. 2, 1997.

"I have not run into, in my 40 years, that kind of defensive intensity for as long as they played it," Bennett said. "It was most impressive."

The Cougars missed their first six shots, including five from three-point range — and it didn't get much better from there. Oklahoma State (5-0) built a commanding 29-2 lead and was up 36-10 at halftime. Washington State finished 12-for-55 from the field, missing 20 of 24 from three-point range.

"I think once it got to the embarrassment stage, we really lost our spirit," Bennett said. "I thought that happened, and I understand that. It would be pretty hard to maintain any kind of backbone in the face of that pressure and this crowd. And we did, I thought, soften considerably."

The Cougars are familiar with offensive fatigue. Last December, Fresno State beat the Cougars 46-29, after leading 27-9 at the half. By nature, the Cougars are a low-scoring team, averaging only 52.5 points in their first four games. Bennett said it didn't help that the Cougars were playing without a point guard, but he refused to say it was just a bad day for his team.

"I think it was their defense," he said. "We have very slow shooters. We've seen that. ... If you let them shoot any, they'll shoot the shot, you might make some. But when you rush them, they really have trouble."

Oklahoma State was relentless, keeping in the Cougars' faces as the crowd of 12,019 chanted "De-fense" late into the second half.

Oklahoma State's yield was its lowest since a 55-29 victory over New Mexico State in 1952.

Almost lost in the avalanche of negative numbers was a positive fact for Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton, whose 76th victory moved him past Western Kentucky's Ed Diddle into eighth place on the coaches career list.

Balanced Ohio tops Navy; Army beaten

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ohio — Leon Williams scored 16 points to pace four players in double figures in Ohio's 90-55 victory over Navy on Saturday.

Diamond Gladney and Sonny Truitt each had 12 points and Truitt had 10 for the Bobcats, who are 3-0 for the first time since 2001.

Ohio, which never trailed, turned 32 Navy turnovers into 33 points. The Bobcats used 13 players and each played for at least nine minutes.

David Hooper came off the bench to score 15 points for Navy

Service academies

(3-3), which shot 40 percent from the field. No other Navy player scored more than six points.

The Midshipmen had just seven field goals in the first half while Ohio shot 52 percent from the field in building a 44-22 margin at intermission.

The Bobcats owned a 46-18 advantage in points inside and also made 18 of 22 free throws.

Hooper connected on three three-pointers in six attempts.

St. Francis, N.Y., 78, Army 64: At New York, Tristin Smith

made all five of his three-point attempts on the way to scoring 26 points in his debut with St. Francis. Smith transferred to St. Francis from St. John's.

Nick Jones, who made six of six attempts from three-point range, followed with 17 points for St. Francis (2-2). The Terriers, who pulled away from a 34-34 tie at halftime, finished with 15 three-pointers in 29 attempts.

Matt Bell scored 22 points to top the Black Knights (1-5) and Cory Simmes added 14.

Bell had five points as Army took an 11-2 lead and Luke Slater's basket pushed the Black Knights' advantage to 29-17 at

6:35 of the first half. Devon Neckles scored four points during a 12-0 run that got the Terriers even 29-29 with 4:33 remaining before halftime.

Bell's layup at 1:50 of the second half pushed Army into a 38-38 tie, its last before St. Francis took control with an 18-6 spurt. Smith had nine points during the run as the Terriers built a 56-44 advantage with 11:50 to play.

Army got within 56-49 when Ryan Wallace made two free throws.

After the teams exchanged baskets, Smith scored five points to lead a 15-0 run that made it 73-51 with 3:37 remaining.

Down 17 in 4th, Bengals pounce

Cincinnati rallies, upends Baltimore

BY DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Carson Palmer capped his finest day in the NFL with an appropriate ending to an improbable comeback.

Down by 17 points entering the fourth quarter, the Bengals pierced the proud defense of the Baltimore Ravens for 24 points over the final 15 minutes and escaped with a 27-26 victory Sunday.

Shayne Graham kicked a 24-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Bengals their first win in Baltimore in eight tries since 1996.

Matt Stover's fourth field goal put Baltimore up 26-24 with 1:42 left, but Palmer calmly drove Cincinnati (6-6) into position for the winning kick, covering 60 yards in seven plays.

A 32-yard pass to T.J. Housh-

mandzadeh and a 22-yarder to Chad Johnson were the key plays in the drive.

Palmer, a second-year pro, went 29-for-36 for a career-high 382 yards. Houshmandzadeh had 10 catches for 171 yards and Johnson amassed 161 yards on his 10 receptions.

Before Sunday, the Bengals had been outscored 73-50 in the fourth quarter.

After scoring 58 points one week earlier against Cleveland, the Bengals could muster only a field goal through the opening 45 minutes. But Palmer brought Cincinnati back, passing for 200 yards and three touchdowns during the fourth quarter.

Chester Taylor ran for 139 yards and a touchdown in place of the injured Jamal Lewis, but it wasn't enough for the Ravens (7-5).

Baltimore took a 20-3 lead late



Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, right, celebrates his fourth-quarter touchdown as Baltimore Ravens safety Will Demps (47) follows Sunday in Baltimore. The Bengals won 27-26.

in the third quarter when Ed Reed intercepted an overthrow by Palmer and took it 21 yards before fumbling. Teammate Chris McAlister scooped up the loose ball and took it 64 yards into the end zone, breaking several tackles along the way.

At that point, the Bengals appeared doomed to yet another lopsided defeat in Baltimore. But Palmer had other plans.

He followed a muffed punt by Ravens rookie B.J. Sams with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Johnson, then tossed a 12-yarder

to Johnson to bring Cincinnati to 20-17.

Stover answered with a field goal, but a 9-yard TD pass from Palmer to Houshmandzadeh put the Bengals in front 24-23 with 5:38 left.

Following a last-minute first half dominated by both defenses, the Ravens moved 85 yards on 12 plays in the opening drive of the third quarter to go up 13-3. Kyle Boller went 5-for-5 for 46 yards, including a 13-yarder to Taylor on a third-and-9 play, and Taylor capped the drive with a 1-yard plunge.

Panthers stay in wild-card hunt, beat woeful Saints

BY MARY FOSTER

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — John Kasay kept the Carolina Panthers' late-run for a playoff berth on track with six field goals Sunday in a 32-21 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

It was the Panthers' fourth victory in a row and, in the weak NFC, their 5-7 record has them in the middle of the wild-card race.

The Saints (4-8) have lost three straight and seven of the last nine games. Some of the few fans remaining by the end of the game chanted "Fire Haslett" as the clock wound down, referring to beleaguered coach Jim Haslett.

The Panthers have shaken off the loss of 14 players to injuries.

The defending NFC champions put the game out of reach early and stopped the

Saints' second-half effort with two interceptions, including one on the Carolina 11-yard line.

Kasay's six field goals set a Panthers record; he kicked five in a game twice.

Jake Delhomme, playing with a cast on his broken right thumb, completed 22 of 29 passes for 294 yards and a touchdown, making him the first Carolina quarterback to throw 20 touchdowns passes in a season since Steve Beuerlein tossed 36 in 1999.

Nick Gossing rushed for 122 yards on 36 carries and Muntari Muhammad had 10 receptions for 179 yards against the NFL's worst defense. The Saints are the only team to allow more than 400 yards per game (418.5) and Carolina gained 401. New Orleans has not held an opponent under 20 points in any game this season.

The offense is no better. New Orleans has not scored in the first quarter since Sept. 19. Against Carolina, it did not make a first down until two minutes remaining in the first half.

The Saints had 280 yards in total offense, but only 74 yards in the first half.

Aaron Brooks completed 20 of 40 attempts for 251 yards and three touchdowns. Joe Horn had eight catches for 160 yards, giving him a 1,000-yard season for the fourth time in the last five years.

Deuce McAllister rushed for only 22 yards on seven carries, his lowest yardage of the season, except for the San Francisco game where he was injured on the third play.

The Saints finally found the end zone with 1:38 left in the first half when Brooks hit Horn with a 13-yard pass. But Kasay's 25-yard field goal made it 26-7 at halftime.

League allows hearing on union's brawl grievance to proceed

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA informed the players' union Sunday it will not seek a temporary restraining order in federal court, clearing the way for a grievance hearing over suspensions for the Pacers-Pistons brawl.

Arbitrator Roger Kaplan will

**NBA
briefs**

preside over the hearing Thursday and Friday at a Manhattan law office. Suspended players Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson are expected to attend. Artest was sidelined for the season, Jackson for 30 games, and O'Neal for 25 for fighting with fans Nov. 19.

The NBA has already filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging Kaplan's authority to hear the grievance, and the league was expected to try Monday to prevent the hearing from going forward.

But in phone calls Sunday between attorneys for the two sides, the league told the union it would not be seeking a restraining order.

"Our position hasn't changed.

We've started a proceeding in federal court, and it will remain pending while we wait the arbitrator does," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said.

The union categorized the league's decision as a significant change of course.

"Our goal all along has been to secure a hearing on the merits of the case as soon as possible. Now, the last impediment from that happening has been removed," union spokesman Dan Wasserman said.

Wasserman must rule on two issues: Whether Commissioner David Stern's penalties can even be appealed to an arbitrator, and the underlying matter of whether the commissioner had just cause for some of the longest fight-related suspensions in league history.

The league contends the commissioner has sole authority to

discipline players for on-court behavior — and is the only avenue of appeal.

Hornets get exemption to put Magloire on injured list

NEW ORLEANS — The Hornets received an exemption to put Jamaal Magloire on the injured list. The center will be sidelined three months with a broken right ring finger.

New Orleans also signed 6-foot-9 forward Corley Edwards from the Continental Basketball Association.

The injured list is generally restricted to three players.

Magloire joins Baron Davis, who has an inflamed disc in his lower back; Jamal Mashburn, who has an irritated right kneecap; and Rodney Rogers, who has a sprained left knee.

Bills outdo Dolphins in unlikely shootout

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A.J. Feeley was the better quarterback early. Then Drew Bledsoe began to pick apart the Miami Dolphins' defense.

In a shootout worthy of Dan Marino and Jim Kelly, Bledsoe threw four touchdown passes, and the Buffalo Bills forced seven turnovers to maintain their late-season surge by beating Miami 42-31 Sunday.

Feeley threw three touchdowns passes, all in the first 12½ minutes. He also had a hand in six turnovers, including an interception returned 20 yards for the game's final score by 317-pound tackle Pat Williams with 1:55 left.

The Bills (6-6) have scored 117 points in the past three games, all wins, and they're in playoff contention despite an 0-4 start.

They completed a season sweep of the Dolphins (2-10), who fell to 0-8 against AFC opponents.

Willis McGee, playing in South Florida for the first time since a standout college career with the Miami Hurricanes that ended when he injured his knee at the Fiesta Bowl in 2003, carried 29 times for 91 yards. He lost a fumble to end a scoring threat with 1:55 left, and a screen pass negated by a holding penalty on Terry Utege.

Terrence McGee opened the game scoring on a 104-yard kickoff return, the longest in Bills' history, but Miami came from behind twice early and led 24-14 less than 17 minutes into the game. The productivity was astounding from a team that totaled 23 points in its first three games this season.

The Bills spilled early before Bledsoe warmed up. He finished 19-for-30 for 277 yards and no interceptions, while Feeley went 25-for-51 for 303 yards with five interceptions.

Miami also lost two fumbles, including one on a botched handoff, and increased their turnover total this season to 35.

Bobcats waive House

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats waived reserve guard Eddie House on Saturday, hours after he missed a victory over New York due to what coach Bernie Bickerstaff called an excused absence.

In his pregame media availability, Bickerstaff announced House would not play. The team did not announce his release until nearly two hours after the game, with Bickerstaff and the team scheduled to fly to Los Angeles after the game to begin a West Coast road trip.

House started five games and averaged 11.1 points in 23 minutes.

He also had 25 steals while playing in a rotation at the off-guard spot that included Steve Smith, Jason Kapono and Keith Bogans.

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Buccaneers batter Vick, first-place Falcons

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Everywhere Michael Vick turned, there were Tampa Bay Buccaneers jerseys.

Making one of the NFL's most exciting players look ordinary for much of the day, the Bucs dominated Atlanta 27-0 Sunday to keep the first-place Falcons from clinching the NFC South championship.

Simeon Rice became the 22nd player in league history to reach 100 sacks, getting Vick on the ground twice and forcing a fumble to set up a touchdown. Rice boosted his career total to 101 in nine seasons, second on the active list behind Michael Strahan's 118. Derrick Brooks also made it a miserable day for the Atlanta quarterback, tipping an ill-advised pass that Dwight Smith intercepted in the end zone and sacked Vick once to force a fumble that led to a field goal.

Despite marching to Tampa Bay's 1-yard line twice, Atlanta (9-3) was shut out for the first time since losing 36-0 at St. Louis on Oct. 13, 2003 — a game Vick missed because of injury. Sunday's loss also ended a four-game winning streak that included a 24-14 victory over the Bucs (5-7) at home three weeks ago.

Vick rushed for 81 yards on eight carries, but was just 13-for-27 passing for 115 yards and two interceptions.

Cols 51, Titans 24: At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes, Edgerlin James ran for two scores and Indianapolis returned a blocked field goal for another TD as the Colts routed Tennessee and moved closer to clinching the AFC South.

Indianapolis (9-3) won its fifth straight by tying the NFL record for most consecutive 40-point games with four. Only two other teams have done it: the 2000 St. Louis Rams and the 1960 San Diego Chargers.

The Titans (4-8) have lost three of four, allowing their most points since a 52-25 loss to the Oakland Raiders on Sept. 29, 2002.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher's strategy turned the game into a wild contest as he called three onside kicks in the first quarter, then attempted a fake punt in the third quarter.

Manning still threw for 317 yards in the first half, when re-

NFL roundup

ceivers Brandon Stokley and Marvin Harrison each topped 100 yards. Manning finished 25-for-33 for 425 yards with two interceptions as he moved behind four TD passes of Dan Marino's season record (48).

Manning also tied John Unitas' 45-year-old record by throwing for multiple touchdowns in 12 straight games to start a season.

Patriots 42, Browns 15: At Cleveland, Bethel Johnson returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and Corey Dillon rushed for 98 yards and two TDs before halftime.

Randall Gay ran in a fumble 41 yards for a TD early in the second half as the Patriots (11-1) won for the 26th time in 27 regular-season games.

Dillon, who bruised his leg in the first half, carried just once in the second half and finished with 100 yards, his seventh 100-yard game this season.

It would have been easy for New England to look past the Browns (3-9), who lost their sixth straight game and first under interim coach Terry Robiskie. On Tuesday, coach Butch Davis resigned under fire. He picked the perfect week to bow out.

Bears 24, Vikings 14: At Chicago, Chad Hutchinson, who was surfing in California a little more than two months ago, made his first Chicago start a memorable one, throwing three TD passes.

Since the Bears (5-7) signed Hutchinson in September following a season-ending knee injury to Rex Grossman, he has spent most of time as a third-stringer.

In three previous games, the offense had produced just one touchdown.



Atlanta Falcons QB Michael Vick (7) scrambles away from Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end Simeon Rice, left, on Sunday. Rice sacked Vick twice in the Buccaneers' 27-0 victory.

Minnesota (7-5) saw its playoff chances hurt for the second straight year by a late-season loss to the Bears. Daunte Culpepper, completing 70 percent of his passes entering the game, has three passes intercepted — he had only seven before Sunday — and the Vikings were held scoreless in the second half.

Jets 29, Texans 7: At East Rutherford, N.J., Chad Pennington, back after missing three games because of a strained right rotator cuff, directed three second-half touchdown drives and Curtis Martin held his seventh 100-yard game of the season to help the Jets (9-3) stay in the thick of the AFC playoff race.

The Jets had another solid defensive effort, shutting out the Texans (5-7) in the second half — the sixth time this season they've blanked an opponent over the final two quarters — and allowing 10 points or fewer for the third straight game.

Martin had 134 yards on 23 carries, going over the 1,300-yard mark on the season. He needs 26 yards to become the fifth back to reach 13,000 yards in a career. The Jets had 36 carries for 210 yards on the ground.

Rams 16, 49ers 6: At St. Louis, Steven Jackson ran for 119 yards on 26 carries, his first career 100-yard game, to help the Rams compensate for Marc Bulger's shoulder injury. Bulger had taken every snap this season before being replaced by a sprained right shoulder after a sack by Bryant Young late in the first quarter. His replacement, 38-year-old Chris Chandler, threw his first touchdown pass in more than a year.

The Rams (6-6) added three field goals from Jeff Wilkins, two from 52 yards. The St. Louis defense sealed it against one of the worst teams in the NFL by holding the 49ers (1-11) to 63 yards rushing on 27 carries.

Carry Holt had 10 catches for 160 yards to help the Rams go to 5-0 against the weak NFC West. The Rams are the fifth NFL franchise to win 500 games.

Lions 26, Cardinals 12: At Detroit, Kevin Jones played like the running back the Lions have been searching for since Barry Sanders abruptly retired five years ago. Jones ran for 196 yards and a touchdown, ending the Lions' five-game losing streak and keeping their playoff hopes alive in the muddled and mediocre NFC.

Jason Hanson was 4-for-4 on field goals and Drew Bly had two interceptions for the Lions (5-7).

Arizona (4-8) lost its third straight with its third quarterback in four weeks. Rookie John Navarre, who hadn't won a snap in the regular season, threw three interceptions and was 18-for-39 for 168 yards with a TD.

NFL scorecard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	1	0	.909	230	109
N.Y. Jets	9	3	0	.750	254	175
Dallas	6	6	0	.500	200	214
Buffalo	10	0	0	1.000	196	209
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	9	3	0	.750	431	263
Jacksonville	8	4	0	.667	282	208
Houston	9	3	0	.750	231	269
Tennessee	9	3	0	.750	231	269
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	11	0	0	.909	256	168
Carolina	11	0	0	.909	232	169
Cincinnati	6	6	0	.500	268	272
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	240	268
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	9	0	0	.909	227	211
Denver	7	4	0	.636	257	182
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	207	284
Kansas City	3	8	0	.273	207	299

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	10	1	0	.909	293	208
N.Y. Giants	9	3	0	.750	232	169
Washington	4	8	0	.333	231	284
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	9	3	0	.750	232	242
Carolina	9	3	0	.750	241	207
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	233	264
New Orleans	8	4	0	.667	233	244
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	203	267
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	203	267
Detroit	5	7	0	.417	218	269
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	239	223
St. Louis	4	8	0	.333	192	253
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	192	253
San Francisco	1	11	0	.091	198	316

x-clinched division
 Detroit 26, Arizona 12
 St. Louis 29, Houston 7
 Chicago 24, Minnesota 14
 Cincinnati 27, Baltimore 25
 St. Louis 16, San Francisco 6
 Carolina 34, Atlanta 27
 Carolina 32, New Orleans 21
 New England 24, Cleveland 15
 Buffalo 42, Miami 32
 San Diego 20, Tennessee 24
 Kansas City at Oakland
 N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville
 Green Bay at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Washington

Monday's game
 Sunday, Dec. 12
 Oakland at Atlanta
 New Orleans at Dallas
 Cleveland at Buffalo
 N.Y. Giants at Baltimore
 Indianapolis at Houston
 Chicago at Jacksonville
 Cincinnati at New England
 N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh
 Tampa Bay at Tampa
 Detroit at Green Bay
 New York at San Francisco
 San Francisco at Arizona
 Philadelphia at San Diego
 Philadelphia at Washington
 Monday, Dec. 13
 Kansas City at Tennessee

Report: Miami WR Boston facing steroid suspension

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Miami Dolphins receiver David Boston, who has missed the season with a knee injury, is appealing a four-game suspension after testing positive for steroids, Fox Sports reported Sunday.

Neither the NFL nor the Dolphins would comment on the report.

Boston, obtained by Miami in a trade with San Diego in the offseason, injured his knee

in August and is on injured reserve.

Boston pleaded no contest to a charge of driving under the influence of drugs in March 2002 while playing for Arizona. Signed by San Diego in the 2003 offseason, Boston was suspended for one game last year for conduct detrimental to the team.

He was arrested in October in Vermont, where he is rehabilitating, on charges of assaulting an airport gate agent. He is sched-

uled to appear in court on that charge this month.

The Cardinals' first draft choice in 1999, Boston's best season was 2001, when he had 98 receptions for 1,598 yards and eight touchdowns.

After signing with the Chargers before last season, he had 70 catches for 880 yards and seven scores, but was dealt for a sixth-round draft choice because of run-ins with coach Marty Schottenheimer.

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College football scoreboard

AP Top 25 ranked

Press coverage of the football bowl games this week:
 No. 1 Southern Cal (12-0) beat UCLA 29-24.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 2 Oklahoma (12-0) beat Colorado 42-3.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 3 Auburn (12-0) beat No. 10 Tennessee 38-28.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 4 California (10-1) beat Southern Mississippi 26-23.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 5 Utah (10-0) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 6 Texas (10-1) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.

No. 7 Louisville (10-1) beat Tulane 55-7.
 Next vs. No. 11 Boise State.
 No. 8 Georgia (9-2) did not play.
 Next vs. No. 12 Wisconsin.
 No. 9 Miami (8-3) lost to No. 10 Virginia Tech 31-24.
 Next vs. Florida.
 Dec. 31, No. 10 Virginia Tech (10-2) beat No. 9 Miami 10-0.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 11 Boise State (11-0) did not play.
 Next vs. No. 7 Louisville.
 Louisville Bowl, Jan. 1.
 No. 12 Iowa (9-2) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 13 LSU (9-2) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 14 Michigan (9-2) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 15 Tennessee (9-3) lost to No. 3 Auburn 38-28.
 Next vs. TBA.
 Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1.
 No. 16 Florida State (9-3) beat No. 17 Texas Tech 31-24.
 Next vs. West Virginia.
 No. 18 Wisconsin (9-2) did not play.
 Next vs. No. 19 Texas Tech.
 No. 19 Miami (8-3) did not play.
 Next vs. Florida.
 Independence Bowl, Dec. 28.
 No. 19 Pittsburgh (8-3) beat South Florida 43-17.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 20 Florida (7-4) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 21 Arizona State (8-4) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 22 Texas A&M (7-4) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 23 Boston College (8-3) did not play.
 Next vs. North Carolina.
 Continental Tire Bowl, Dec. 31.
 No. 24 Texas Tech (7-4) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 No. 25 Ohio State (7-4) did not play.
 Next vs. TBA.
 Aloha Bowl, Dec. 31.

Saturday
No. 1 USC 29, UCLA 24

Southern Cal 10 3 0 7-2-4
 UCLA 0 0 0 7-1-6

First Quarter

USC—Bush Jr. run (Killean kick), 14:02.
 UCLA—Lewie 4 pass from Olson (Medlock kick), 7:08.

Second Quarter

USC—Bragg 56 punt (left), 12:05.
 USC—Petersen 31 run (Killean kick), 6:03.
 USC—Fitzgerald 42, 99.

Third Quarter

USC—Fitzgerald 34, 79.
 USC—McKinnis 3 run (Medlock kick), 1:35.

Fourth Quarter

USC—Fitzgerald 38, 125.
 USC—Fitzgerald 34, 348.
 UCLA—Lewie 4 pass from Olson (Medlock kick), 2:20.
 A—38-42.

Total

First downs 27-25
 Rushes-yards 31-251
 Passes-yards 19-12
 Comp-Att-Int 24-31-1
 Return yards 5-36.7
 Punts-yards 6-36.7
 Fumbles-lost 4-1
 Penalties-yards 4-40
 Time of possession 34:23

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Southern Cal 154, 25-27.
 UCLA—Lewie 4 pass from Olson (Medlock kick), 2:20.
 USC—Fitzgerald 34, 79.
 USC—McKinnis 3 run (Medlock kick), 1:35.

Receiving—Southern Cal

Bush Jr. 6-73, Jarrett 4-47, Johnson 3-37, 4-47, 5-47, 6-47, 7-47, 8-47, 9-47, 10-47, 11-47, 12-47, 13-47, 14-47, 15-47, 16-47, 17-47, 18-47, 19-47, 20-47, 21-47, 22-47, 23-47, 24-47, 25-47, 26-47, 27-47, 28-47, 29-47, 30-47, 31-47, 32-47, 33-47, 34-47, 35-47, 36-47, 37-47, 38-47, 39-47, 40-47, 41-47, 42-47, 43-47, 44-47, 45-47, 46-47, 47-47, 48-47, 49-47, 50-47, 51-47, 52-47, 53-47, 54-47, 55-47, 56-47, 57-47, 58-47, 59-47, 60-47, 61-47, 62-47, 63-47, 64-47, 65-47, 66-47, 67-47, 68-47, 69-47, 70-47, 71-47, 72-47, 73-47, 74-47, 75-47, 76-47, 77-47, 78-47, 79-47, 80-47, 81-47, 82-47, 83-47, 84-47, 85-47, 86-47, 87-47, 88-47, 89-47, 90-47, 91-47, 92-47, 93-47, 94-47, 95-47, 96-47, 97-47, 98-47, 99-47, 100-47, 101-47, 102-47, 103-47, 104-47, 105-47, 106-47, 107-47, 108-47, 109-47, 110-47, 111-47, 112-47, 113-47, 114-47, 115-47, 116-47, 117-47, 118-47, 119-47, 120-47, 121-47, 122-47, 123-47, 124-47, 125-47, 126-47, 127-47, 128-47, 129-47, 130-47, 131-47, 132-47, 133-47, 134-47, 135-47, 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1009-47, 1010-47, 1011-47, 1012-47, 1013-47, 1014-47, 1015-47, 1016-47, 1017-47, 1018-47, 1019-47, 1020-47, 1021-47, 1022-47, 1023-47, 1024-47, 1025-47, 1026-47, 1027-47, 1028-47, 1029-47, 1030-47, 1031-47, 1032-47, 1033-47, 1034-47, 1035-47, 1036-47, 1037-47, 1038-47, 1039-47, 1040-47, 1041-47, 1042-47, 1043-47, 1044-47, 1045-47, 1046-47, 1047-47, 1048-47, 1049-47, 1050-47, 1051-47, 1052-47, 1053-47, 1054-47, 1055-47, 1056-47, 1057-47, 1058-47, 1059-47, 1060-47, 1061-47, 1062-47, 1063-47, 1064-47, 1065-47, 1066-47, 1067-47, 1068-47, 1069-47, 1070-47, 1071-47, 1072-47, 1073-47, 1074-47, 1075-47, 1076-47, 1077-47, 1078-47, 1079-47, 1080-47, 1081-47, 1082-47, 1083-47, 1084-47, 1085-47, 1086-47, 1087-47, 1088-47, 1089-47, 1090-47, 1091-47, 1092-47, 1093-47, 1094-47, 1095-47, 1096-47, 1097-47, 1098-47, 1099-47, 1100-47, 1101-47, 1102-47, 1103-47, 1104-47, 1105-47, 1106-47, 1107-47, 1108-47, 1109-47, 1110-47, 1111-47, 1112-47, 1113-47, 1114-47, 1115-47, 1116-47, 1117-47, 1118-47, 1119-47, 1120-47, 1121-47, 1122-47, 1123-47, 1124-47, 1125-47, 1126-47, 1127-47, 1128-47, 1129-47, 1130-47, 1131-47, 1132-47, 1133-47, 1134-47, 1135-47, 1136-47, 1137-47, 1138-47, 1139-47, 1140-47, 1141-47, 1142-47, 1143-47, 1144-47, 1145-47, 1146-47, 1147-47, 1148-47, 1149-47, 1150-47, 1151-47, 1152-47, 1153-47, 1154-47, 1155-47, 1156-47, 1157-47, 1158-47, 1159-47, 1160-47, 1161-47, 1162-47, 1163-47, 1164-47, 1165-47, 1166-47, 1167-47, 1168-47, 1169-47, 1170-47, 1171-47, 1172-47, 1173-47, 1174-47, 1175-47, 1176-47, 1177-47, 1178-47, 1179-47, 1180-47, 1181-47, 1182-47, 1183-47, 1184-47, 1185-47, 1186-47, 1187-47, 1188-47, 1189-47, 1190-47, 1191-47, 1192-47, 1193-47, 1194-47, 1195-47, 1196-47, 1197-47, 1198-47, 1199-47, 1200-47, 1201-47, 1202-47, 1203-47, 1204-47, 1205-47, 1206-47, 1207-47, 1208-47, 1209-47, 1210-47, 1211-47, 1212-47, 1213-47, 1214-47, 1215-47, 1216-47, 1217-47, 1218-47, 1219-47, 1220-47, 1221-47, 1222-47, 1223-47, 1224-47, 1225-47, 1226-47, 1227-47, 1228-47, 1229-47, 1230-47, 1231-47, 1232-47, 1233-47, 1234-47, 1235-47, 1236-47, 1237-47, 1238-47, 1239-47, 1240-47, 1241-47, 1242-47, 1243-47, 1244-47, 1245-47, 1246-47, 1247-47, 1248-47, 1249-47, 1250-47, 1251-47, 1252-47, 1253-47, 1254-47, 1255-47, 1256-47, 1257-47, 1258-47,

A perfect ending for 12-Tigers

SEC champ Auburn odd team out in national title picture

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Take that, pollsters and computers. The team left out of the national championship game has a trophy of its own.

For Auburn, that will probably have to do.

Jason Campbell threw for three touchdowns and accounted for more than 400 yards, leading the No. 3 Tigers to a 38-28 victory over 15th-ranked Tennessee in the SEC championship game Saturday night.

Despite being 12-0 for the first time in school history, Auburn is the odd team out in another Bowl Championship Series mess.

"If we don't get a shot at playing for the national championship, sure, there will be some hard feelings," Campbell said. "But they can't take away what this team did this year."

Not that the Tigers passed up the chance to get in some last-minute lobbying.

"We definitely deserve a chance to play for the national championship," Campbell said. "We've done what we can do. We've done what people asked."

No. 1 Southern California also finished 12-0 by holding off UCLA 29-24 earlier Saturday. No. 2 Oklahoma (12-0) did nothing to hurt its standing, coasting to a 42-3 victory over Colorado in a Big 12 title game that ended after the Tigers had celebrated their first SEC championship since 1989.

"When you go 12-0 in the SEC, there's no doubt in my mind you should play in the dance — and that's the Orange Bowl," Auburn assistant Junior Rosegreen said. "Everyone in the world knows how hard we fought. We've been through it all, and we came out on top."

On Sunday, Auburn finished third in the BCS points system that relies on The Associated Press and coaches polls, plus computer ratings. So the Tigers will have to settle for a Sugar Bowl berth against Virginia Tech on Jan. 3.

Campbell, the game's MVP, did all he could to get the Tigers to Miami. He completed 27 of 35 for 374 yards — the first 300-yard



Auburn's Courtney Taylor (86) breaks the tackle of Tennessee's Jonathan Hefney after a reception on the first play of the Southeastern Conference championship game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Saturday. Auburn won 38-28 to improve to 12-0 this season.

passing game of his career. He also rushed for 57 yards, setting an SEC championship game record with 431 yards total offense.

Tennessee (9-3), which will settle for a trip to the Cotton Bowl, played much better than its first meeting against Auburn. The Volunteers were embarrassed on their home field, committing six turnovers in a 34-10 loss in early October.

With third-string Rick Clausen at quarterback because of injuries, the Volunteers rallied to tie the game at 21 on Gerald Riggs Jr.'s 80-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Then, Tennessee pulled to 31-28 with just over 10 minutes remaining when Riggs rumbled for a 9-yard TD.

But Campbell would not be denied. He finished off the Volunteers with his final touchdown, a

43-yard pass to Ben Obamunu with 6:56 remaining.

Tennessee might have pulled off the upset if not for three crucial penalties. Cedric Houston had a 70-yard touchdown run wiped out by a yellow flag, and a holding call negated a 44-yard pass from Clausen to Robert Meachem.

Also, Campbell threw a 53-yard scoring pass to Devin Armasashou — putting the Tigers ahead to stay late in the third quarter — after an interference penalty on Roshawn Fellows extended the drive.

Tennessee was livid about the calls.

"In 13 years, I've never criticized the officials, and many times I've taken up for them," Fulmer said. "I'm not going to cross that line now, but I'll be real anxious to see the film. That's all I'm going to say."

Riggs gained 182 yards on just 11 carries, the first runner in 17 games to surpass 100 yards against the fearsome Auburn defense.

Houston also ran for a touchdown that counted, giving the Vols three rushing scores against a team that had given up only one all season.

Auburn had a 14-0 lead before Tennessee made a first down, and the Tigers dominated the first two quarters. Auburn held a 303-39 lead in total yards at the half, was up 17-2 in first downs and had a nearly 13-minute edge in time of possession.

"Too much, too early," Fulmer said.

Yet the Volunteers were still in the game, trailing only 21-7 because of two big mistakes by Auburn.

Punter Kody Bliss mishandled a snap, and Tennessee took over at the Tigers 14. The blunder set up Houston's 2-yard touchdown drive.

Auburn was in position to extend its two-touchdown lead in the waning seconds of the first half, but Campbell messed up by attempting a pass over the middle. The ball was intercepted in the end zone by Corey Campbell with just 7 seconds left, costing the Tigers a chance to at least attempt a pass over the goal.

The Auburn quarterback had another costly turnover early in the second half, fumbling on a hit by Kevin Burnett. Tule McBride recovered at Auburn 19, leading to Clausen's 17-yard touchdown pass to Meachem.

After Bliss punted into the Tennessee end zone, Riggs found a gaping hole on the very next play. He wasn't so much as touched on his long, tying touchdown.

"The pressure was on them," said Clausen, who was just 8-for-20 for 69 yards. "They were ranked third in the nation, and we were projected to finish third in the conference. We had nothing to lose."

But Jason Campbell made sure the Tigers came away from this season with at least one title.

"It's been 15 years since Auburn won an SEC championship, and we've never won 12 games in a season," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said. "This is a special team."

Bowl Glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bowl Payoff: \$750,000 North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Mississippi (6-5)	Tuesday, Dec. 21 Champs Sports Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Payoff: \$500,000 Georgia Tech (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (12-2) Wednesday, Dec. 22 C-USA Bowl Mobile, Ala. Payoff: \$750,000 Memphis (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3)
Thursday, Dec. 23 Ford (Texas) Bowl Payoff: \$750,000 Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)	Thursday, Dec. 24 Las Vegas Bowl Payoff: \$750,000 Idaho (6-5) vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5 Hawaii Bowl Honolulu Payoff: \$750,000 UAB (7-4) vs. Hawaii (7-5)
Saturday, Dec. 25 Blue-Grey Classic At Troy, Ala. Blue vs. Gray	Monday, Dec. 27 MPC Computers Bowl At Boise, Idaho Payoff: \$750,000 Fresno State (10-2) vs. Virginia (8-3)
Motor City Bowl At Pontiac, Mich. Payoff: \$750,000 Toledo (9-3) vs. Connecticut (7-4)	Tuesday, Dec. 28 Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Payoff: \$1.2 million Big 12 vs. MAC
Insight Bowl Phoenix, Ariz. Payoff: \$750,000 Pac-10 No. 1 vs. Big 12 No. 2 (6-5)	Wednesday, Dec. 29 Houston Bowl Payoff: \$1.5 million Texas-El Paso (8-3) vs. Big 12 Alamo Bowl At San Antonio Payoff: \$1.5 million Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 12 No. 4
Thursday, Dec. 30 Continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. Boston College (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-5)	Friday, Dec. 31 Emerald Bowl At San Francisco Payoff: \$750,000 New Mexico (7-4) vs. Oregon (9-2)
Holiday Bowl Payoff: \$2 million California (12-0) vs. Big 12 No. 3 Silicon Valley Classic At San Jose, Calif. Payoff: \$750,000	Friday, Dec. 31 Mazda City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. Payoff: \$750,000 Alabama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5)
Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas Payoff: \$1.5 million Purdue (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)	Liberty Bowl Payoff: \$1.5 million Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (10-1)
Peach Bowl At Atlanta Payoff: \$2.1 million Miami (8-3) vs. Florida (7-4)	Orange Bowl Payoff: \$2.1 million Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)
Gator Bowl Payoff: \$2.1 million Florida State (8-3) vs. West Virginia (8-3)	At Orlando, Fla. Payoff: \$2.1 million Iowa (9-2) vs. LSU (6-2)
At Pasadena, Calif. Payoff: \$1.5 million Michigan (9-2) vs. Texas (10-1)	Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Payoff: \$1.5 million Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (9-3)
Sugar Bowl Payoff: \$1.5 million Auburn (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2)	Orange Bowl At Miami Payoff: \$1.5 million Southern Cal (11-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)
Gridiron Classic At The Villages, Fla. North vs. South	East-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco Saturday, Jan. 22 At San Jose, Calif. At Maui, Hawaii Saturday, Jan. 29 Senior Bowl At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South	

BCS: Texas jumps over California into No. 4 spot

BCS, FROM BACK PAGE

At least Auburn is in a top bowl. California was left out altogether as the Bears passed the Golden Bears and moved into fourth in the final BCS standings. The Longhorns (10-1) will play Big Ten co-champion Michigan (9-2) in the Rose Bowl.

Utah (11-0) officially became the first team from a non-BCS conference to receive a bid to one of the four \$14 million bowl

games, earning a spot in the Fiesta Bowl against Big East representative Pittsburgh (8-3).

The Utes, from the Mountain West Conference, will play their last game under coach Urban Meyer on Jan. 1 in Tempe, Ariz. Meyer is headed to Florida.

The Trojans and Sooners went wire-to-wire atop both polls; it's the first time Nos. 1 and 2 stayed the same from the AP preseason Top 25 through the final regular

season poll, though the Sooners shared second with Auburn for one week.

So Sunday's Orange Bowl announcement was not surprising. Auburn, Oklahoma and USC all finished their regular seasons with victories Saturday, making it extremely unlikely that there would be any change at the top of the BCS.

Texas' move past Cal might have caught some people off

guard, however.

It looked like the Bears controlled their BCS destiny a few weeks ago and simply needed to win out to reach the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1959. But Texas began gaining ground in the polls, especially with the coaches, as Longhorns coach Mack Brown lobbied for voters.

Texas' first BCS bid also means the Rose Bowl won't have its traditional Big Ten vs. Pac-10 matchup.

USC (Undeclared, Seeks Championship)

Top-ranked Trojans handle feisty Bruins to set up showdown with No. 2 Sooners

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Southern California has reached all its goals to this point. Although the Trojans were pushed by cross-town rival UCLA, they made sure they'll get a shot at the one that remains.

Reggie Bush had two long touchdown runs, Ryan Killean kicked five field goals and No. 1 USC held off the Bruins 29-24 Saturday to lock up an Orange Bowl bid to play for the Bowl Championship Series title.

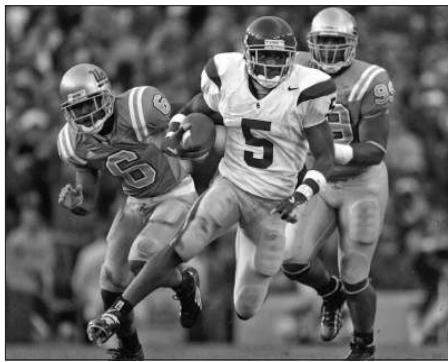
"They started No. 1 and finished No. 1," Keith Tribble, chief executive officer of the Orange Bowl, said. "... USC knows how to finish. It's the sign of a champion."

Moments after the game, USC fans in both ends of the stadium tossed oranges onto the field as the Trojans celebrated. Bush climbed the band director's ladder near the south end zone, waved a Trojan sword and held a sign reading, "No. 1, Trojans Orange Bowl-bound."

It wasn't USC's best performance — and Heisman Trophy contender Matt Leinart was held in check — but that should be enough.

The final BCS standings and bowl pairings, announced Sunday, pit the Trojans (12-0, 8-0 Pac-10) against No. 2 Oklahoma, also unbeaten in 12 games, in the Orange Bowl. Auburn, despite a perfect record (12-0) and the championship of the Southeastern Conference, was frozen out of the national title game and will instead face Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

USC was just such a victim last season, when it finished atop both polls after the regular season but was third in the final BCS standings. The Trojans won the AP national championship and LSU beat Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl to win the BCS title. "We'll find out tomorrow," USC coach



USC's Reggie Bush is off on a 35-yard gain in the fourth quarter, part of his 204-yard, two-touchdown effort that helped the top-ranked Trojans beat UCLA 29-24 on Saturday.

Pete Carroll said about the UCLA game. "We've done everything we could do, regardless of how it turns out. Going wire to wire is challenging. Whether it's the Orange Bowl or not, I don't know. I don't really care. I just enjoyed today."

The Trojans completed the fifth perfect regular season in school history and first since 1972, when they won the national championship. It was USC's 15th straight Pac-10 triumph and 21st consecutive victory overall. The Trojans have won 32 of their last 33 games.

Bush gained a career-high 204 yards on 15 carries — most on a 65-yard touchdown run on the game's second play and an 81-yard dash midway through the second quarter.

It was just the second game in which the explosive sophomore has rushed for more

than 100 yards. He also had six receptions for 73 yards.

"I think I might have shaken up the votes a little bit," he said, referring to the Heisman balloting.

Bush's candidacy seemed to waver in recent weeks, mainly because he doesn't have the numbers of such leading contenders as Leinart, the junior left-hander who completed his first 10 passes for 64 yards. He wound up 24-for-34 for 242 yards with one interception and no touchdowns — the first time in 25 career starts he has failed to throw at least one TD pass. USC is 24-1 in his starts.

"He (Bush) was huge returning the ball, running the ball and catching the ball," Leinart said. "We weren't able to put a lot of points up. They did a good job defensively, but we have so many weapons."

Carroll became the first Trojans coach to beat Notre Dame and UCLA — USC's biggest rivals — in three straight seasons.

USC has beaten the Bruins six straight times — its longest winning streak in the series, which it leads 40-27-7.

"I'm disappointed about today, but I'm excited about our future," second-year UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said. "It wasn't our best effort. But you know what? I'll take it against the best team in the country."

Drew Olson completed 20 of 34 passes for 178 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions for UCLA (6-5, 4-4), which will play in the Insight Bowl at the Las Vegas Bowl. The Bruins were limited to 17 yards on 25 rushes.

"This effort did not make our opportunity. If we had won, it would have," UCLA receiver Tab Perry.

On Bush's first scoring run, he faked out Matt Clark near the UCLA 10 before smothering into the end zone and spiking the ball to draw an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Killean's 37-yard field goal on USC's second possession made it 10-0, and it appeared the rout was on.

It wasn't. Craig Bragg's school-record 96-yard punt return early in the second quarter cut USC's lead to 10-7. Bragg broke Kermit Alexander's 43-year-old record by two yards.

The Bruins then blew an opportunity after Chris Horton blocked Tom Malone's punt, giving UCLA the ball at the USC 19. But the Trojans held, and Justin Medlock missed a 39-yard field goal.

Bush scored his second touchdown two plays later to give USC a 17-7 lead. He broke two tackles to get into the clear and, one play later, he did. Nobody was going to catch the speedster.

"I have no advice in terms of stopping him," Dorrell said. "No one has been able to stop him yet."

Killean's second fourth-quarter field goal — set up by Lofa Tatupu's interception — made it 29-17. But UCLA drew with one minute left in the game on a 4-yard pass to Marcedes Lewis on fourth-and-2.

The Bruins got one final chance when Spencer Hagner recovered a fumble by USC's Leinart. But USC intercepted Olson's pass on the next play.

Second-ranked Oklahoma OK — and then some

Sooners slam Colorado 42-13 in Big 12 title game, earn Orange Bowl invitation

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Munching on an orange after the game, Oklahoma tailback Adrian Peterson had a pretty good idea of what the Sooners are heading next.

On Sunday, it was confirmed. Oklahoma made its Orange Bowl invitation a no-brainer Saturday night, getting three touchdown passes from Jason White and three rushing TDs from Peterson in a near-flawless 42-3 dismantling of Colorado in the Big 12 title game.

Next up for the Sooners: A trip to Miami where No. 2 Oklahoma (12-0) will play for its eighth national title, against defending champion and top-ranked Southern California.

"This whole season, we played hard, finished games," Peterson said. "I'm not saying we made a statement today, but we went out and busted our butts for four quarters."

USC and No. 3 Auburn, the other national-title wannabe, also took care of business

Saturday. The Trojans defeated UCLA 29-24 and the Tigers beat No. 15 Tennessee 38-28.

But neither contender was anywhere near as impressive as coach Bob Stoops' Sooners.

"There aren't any parts missing, I don't believe," Stoops said. "You saw it all the way through. The offense has the ability to make plays running or throwing. The defense has been good, and fortunately, we did it all the right time."

White finished with 254 yards and three for all his touchdowns over the first 15:07. Two went to Matt Clayton, who made a sweet, reaching, fingertip catch on the second for a 21-0 lead. Clayton finished with eight catches for 106 yards.

Peterson surpassed the century mark in the second quarter for his 11th 100-yard rushing game, an NCAA record for a freshman. He finished with 172 yards and saved the best for last, breaking six tackles for a darting, spinning 32-yard score and a 42-3 lead. That touchdown prompted Sooners

fans to start throwing oranges onto the field — a tradition like no other.

Peterson and White did the Heisman voters no favors; they entered the weekend as two presumed favorites, and leave it just the same way.

"White, he was on. If you slip, or do something too slow, it's a catch," Buffs' defensive back Terrence Wheatley said. "Peterson, I've never seen someone that strong, that big."

In Colorado (7-5), the Sooners had the perfect foil for a statement game like this.

The Buffs turned their year of turmoil — dogged by a sex and recruiting scandal and the spring suspension of coach Gary Barnett — into a feel-good story by capturing the Big 12 North with a stirring, late-season, three-game winning streak.

But their appearance in the title game couldn't mask the fact that they are, at best, only the fourth- or fifth-best team in a conference in which all the good teams played in the other division.

"Our team is embarrassed by our performance," Barnett said. "We were inept at

best. We played a very, very good football team and we were just not prepared to play that team today."

Joel Klatt threw for 52 yards for the Buffs and leading rusher Bobby Purify was held to 7 yards on 12 carries. Colorado took until the 9:25 mark of the third quarter to get its first first down via penalty. The Buffs finished with only three first downs and their only trip past the 50 came courtesy of an Oklahoma turnover.

Meanwhile, White and Peterson overmatched the Colorado defense from the get-go. Oklahoma drove 80, 63, 53 and 40 yards for touchdowns and a 28-0 lead after its first five possessions.

Later in the second quarter, the Sooners made a first down off a fake field goal and were looking to go ahead 35-0, but White threw a lob into the end zone that was intercepted by Wheatley.

That was one of three turnovers the Sooners committed, the last of which resulted in Mason Crosby's field goal that kept the Buffs from being shut out.

Oklahoma won its 39th conference championship.

SPORTS



**Moya tops Roddick,
clinching Davis Cup
for Spain, Page 24**

USC, Oklahoma headed to Orange

BCS No. 1 vs. No. 2 still might not produce unanimous champ

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Now Auburn knows what it feels like to be the odd team out.

Southern California and Oklahoma finished atop the final Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday and will meet in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4 in a title game that might not produce a unanimous national champion.

Auburn, which finished 12-0 just like the Trojans and Sooners, finished third in the BCS points system that relies on The Associated Press and coaches polls, plus computer ratings. So the Tigers will have to settle for a Sugar Bowl berth against Virginia Tech on Jan. 3.

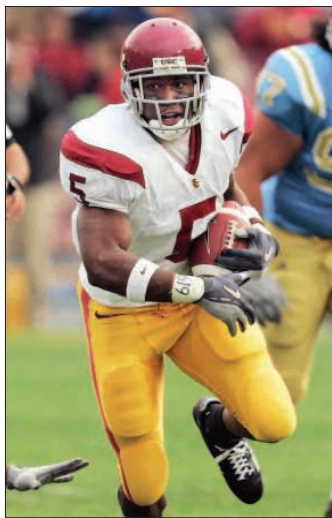
"It's not a perfect system, and if it was we'd all be happy today," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said during ABC's broadcast of the BCS pairings announcement.

USC finished with 9770 in the standings, and Oklahoma had 9681. Auburn, third much of the season, had 9331. Oklahoma's strong computer rankings kept the Sooners ahead of the Tigers in the BCS standings, while USC held on to first place thanks to its strong showing in the polls.

Last season, USC was left out of the BCS title game, despite being No. 1 in both the AP and coaches polls at the end of the regular season. Instead, Oklahoma played LSU in the Sugar Bowl, even though the Sooners lost the Big 12 title game.

When all the bowls were finished, LSU won the BCS championship, and USC was No. 1 in the final AP poll.

In an attempt to avoid a repeat, the BCS scaled back its formula this season, making it far more reliant on the human polls. But another problem arose, of course: For the first time since the BCS was implemented in 1998, there were more than two unbeaten teams from major conferences.



Southern California's Reggie Bush runs for a touchdown on a pass play during the first half of the Trojans' 29-24 victory over UCLA on Saturday. USC has been ranked atop both polls all season.



Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson gets past a Colorado defender during the first quarter of the Sooners' 43-3 victory over Colorado in the Big 12 championship game on Saturday.

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**No. 12 Maryland upset
by George Washington**

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**SEC champ Auburn
squeezed out by BCS**

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**Bengals break free
from Ravens in fourth**

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**Bucs keep Falcons from
clinching NFC South**

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Tired legs still carry Spurs to fifth straight win

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